

How can you reduce the chance of child poisoning?

Tip sheet checklist for your home



AROUND YOUR HOUSE

- Provide adequate supervision for your child at all times. An accident can happen very quickly!
- If called away from the area whilst using a household product, take it with you.
- Ensure the garden shed or garage is securely locked.
- Keep the Poisons Information Centre phone number (13 11 26) near the phone.



STORAGE

- Store household products separate to all foods and pharmaceuticals.
- Lock away scheduled* household products in cupboards at least 1.5 m off the ground. All internally connected cupboards need to be locked. Child-resistant locks can also be installed.
- Lock away pool chemicals and other outdoor products.
- Put products in their correct storage area immediately after purchase or use.
- Know what household products you have and where they are.



CONTAINERS

- Keep household products in their original containers (do not decant). This avoids confusion and retains important label information.
- Make sure original labels are intact. Labels contain important information including product identity, health & safety information, instructions for use & disposal.
- Make sure containers are properly closed. Double check child resistant closures.
- Clean any product residue from around the lid of the container. A child could contact the residue without having to open the container.



USE

- Read the label carefully before use and follow the directions. Products are safe when used according to the manufacturer's directions.
- Close containers and don't leave products unattended while in use.
- Don't mix cleaning products together. Toxic gases are produced when chlorine bleach is mixed with acid- or ammonia-containing products.
- Don't let children come in contact with product residue, e.g. ingestion of dishwasher sludge can cause burns, cleaning products can irritate skin or be ingested through hand-to-mouth behaviour.
- Rinse out buckets, cloths and other cleaning equipment.
- Clean up any spills immediately and remove any contaminated clothing.



DISPOSAL

- Reduce waste by only buying what you need and using up all of the product, or giving leftovers to someone else.
- Rinse out empty containers of liquid household products with water before throwing them out.
- Dispose of unwanted or expired products safely. Some products such as motor oil, solvents and degreasers can be recycled. Contact the nearest Waste Management Centre.

*Some household products contain ingredients that have been classified as having **low** or **moderate** "potential to cause harm". Products that contain these ingredients display the signal words "**CAUTION**" and "**POISON**", respectively, and also provide warnings and safety instructions. These products are safe to use according to the manufacturer's directions. Household products with **high** "potential to cause harm" are not permitted to exist; products which are scheduled as high risk (or "DANGEROUS POISON") are only available to specialised or authorised users. (Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Drugs and Poisons, No. 24)