

How can you decrease the chance of child poisoning?

Tip sheet 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 an area whilst using a household product, take it with you.
- Keep the Poisons Information Centre phone number (13 11 26) near the phone.



SAFE STORAGE

- Store household products separate to all foods and pharmaceuticals.
- Store products out of sight and reach of children. Don't underestimate your child's ingenuity!
- Put products in their correct storage area immediately after purchase or use.
- Use a cupboard with a child-resistant lock if storage up high is not possible, and make sure that it cannot be accessed from an adjacent cupboard. Extra care should be taken with scheduled products (CAUTION or POISON on the label).
- Ensure outdoor storage areas, such as the garden shed or garage, are securely locked.



CARE WITH CONTAINERS

- Keep products in their original containers. 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 and—especially in the case of laundry or dishwasher capsules—dry. Double check child resistant closures!
- Remove any product residue from around the lids of containers. A child could contact the residue without having to open the container.



CARE DURING PRODUCT USE

- Read the label carefully before use and follow the directions. Products are safe when used according to the manufacturer's directions.
- Don't leave products unattended while in use.
- Don't allow children to handle household products.
- Supervise young children when using alcohol-based hand sanitiser. Make sure the product completely dries on their hands—don't let them lick any wet product!
- 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

- 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 your local council. (Unwanted or out-of-date medicines can be returned to your local pharmacy via the [Return Unwanted Medicines Project](#).)



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