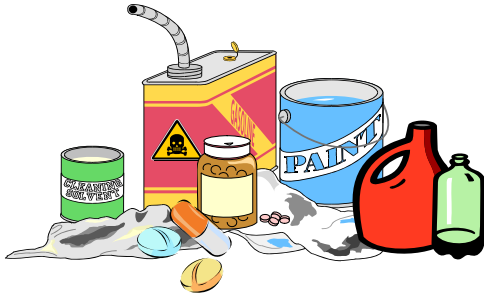


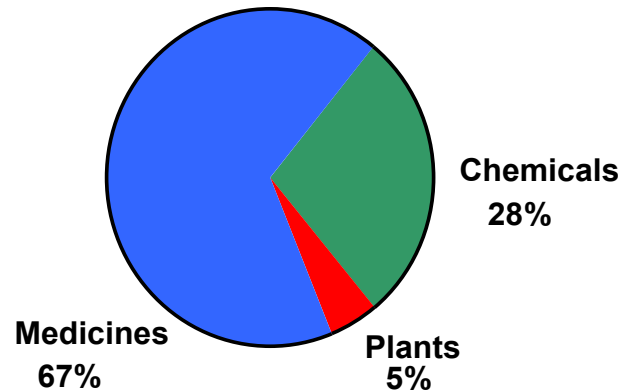
POISONS



- Children under 5 years of age account for most of the accidental childhood poisoning.
- 1 to 3 year olds are at the most risk.
- Each year in Australia 140,000 calls are made to Poisons Information Centres by concerned parents or carers of young children.
- 3,500 children under 5 years of age are admitted to hospitals because of poisoning, annually.
- 5 to 10 of these children die.

Main Causes of Poisoning

Many products and materials commonly found in and around the house are poisonous.



When & Where Poisoning Happens

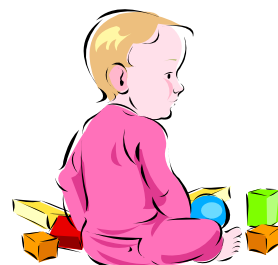
Most child poisonings occur in the child's own home:

- Living Room
- Kitchen
- Bathrooms/ Laundry
- Sheds/Garages

Poisonings often happen quickly, when parents are distracted, or when adults are not in the room.

Toddlers are most at risk, because they are:

- Moving about, and
- Exploring the world with their mouth.



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Real Life' Cases

1. **Garage-** drank insecticides stored in a Coca-Cola® bottle.
2. **Bathroom-** crawled into and opened cupboard, found eating Napisan.
3. **Kitchen-** swallowed dishwasher detergent while parent was packing dishwasher.
4. **At Grandma's-** child found playing with empty container of sleeping tablets.
5. **Living Room -** found playing with mum's bag, swallowed anti-histamine tablets.
6. **Playing in friend's kitchen-** ate rat poison

Common Reasons for Poisoning

- Parent/carer is distracted.
- Child not properly supervised.



- Poisons/chemicals not stored out of reach.
- Poisons/chemicals not put away after use.
- Disrupted household routines.
- Visitors, eg grandparents with medication.
- On holidays, or moving.

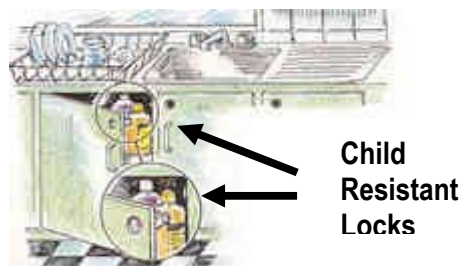
- Unexpected change in a child's development
Eg starts to crawl / walk.
- Poisons placed in "familiar" containers, Eg soft drink bottles.


Common Quotes from Parents after Poisoning

- "I didn't know my child could climb so high".
- "They have never shown any interest in it before".

Child Safety Practices

- Store out of sight
- Store out of reach (adult height or above)
- Use child restraint locks on cupboards. These can be obtained from many hardware stores and other suppliers.



- Always use the original containers to store the chemicals or poisons. Don't use a familiar container that normally holds food or drink. 
- Set safe storage areas, eg Laundry, Kitchen, and Bathroom.
- Storage in refrigerator eg medicines place in child proof container, such as a disk cabinet with a lock.

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- Store all other medicines in a lockable cabinet.



- Store poisons in lockable cabinets.
- Always replace caps.
- While chemicals/poisons are in use, never leave them in reach of children or unattended.
- Put medicines away between use.
- Avoid using industrial strength cleaners into the home.
- Make sure your child cannot access garbage bins or kitchen tidies.
- Use products that have resistant packaging.
- Do not leave any objects that a child could climb on to access poisons.
- Keep the dishwasher door locked. Fill the appliance only when you are about to use it and preferably when children are sleeping.
- Have a safe place up high for visitor's purses, handbags, or hand luggage.
- Return old or unused medicines to your chemist.
- Take old or unused chemicals, paints and other poisons to the nearest Waste Management Centre.
- Remove poisonous plants from your garden. The Playground Advisory Unit at Kidsafe can advise on harmful plants.

“Child Resistant”

- “Child resistant” does not mean “Child Proof”
- Check that “Child Resistant” Caps are working i.e.: caps on liquid medicines “gum up” and need to be cleaned.
- Check that Caps are on properly.

Being a Role Model

Children learn by imitating adults

- Avoid taking medicines in front of them.
- Refer to medicines properly, not as “lollies”.


In an Emergency



If your child swallows a poison do not try to make them vomit. Pick up the poison's container, the child and take it with you to the phone. Ring the Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26 (Australia-wide, 24 hours a day). Keep this number by your phone.

Further Information:

Poisons Information Centre

 **13 11 26**

Kidsafe Tasmania
 PO Box 19 Claremont 7011
 Ph: 0417 381 721
 tas@kidsafe.com.au



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