

Cabinet and Drawer Latches

Latches should be placed on all cabinets and drawers accessible to children and containing any poisonous or dangerous products.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors

CO detectors continuously monitor the air for the presence of the poisonous gas and should be installed on every level of the home. The alarm will sound when the amount of CO reaches a dangerous level.

Make sure everyone in the home can hear and recognize the sound of the alarm and knows how to respond. Leave the home immediately when the alarm sounds. Once out of the home, call 911 from a neighbor's house or your cell phone.

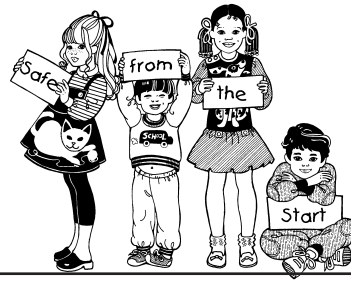
Check with local authorities to determine if law or ordinance requires CO alarm use.



Keep an updated list of emergency telephone numbers with the Poison Control Center number:

1-800-222-1222

Post this near every phone in the home. When there is poisoning exposure, always call 911 or the Poison Control Center first. Consider keeping a bottle of activated charcoal on hand to give the child at the direction of the Poison Control Center if you live in a rural area where access to a hospital is over 30 minutes.



For more information contact **Safe Kids Grand Forks**

c/o Altru Health System
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Grand Forks, ND 58206-6002

Coordinator: Carma Hanson
Phone: 701.780.1489
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www.safekids.org



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Preventing injuries:
at home,
at school,
at play,
and on the way.

Poisoning

We Believe

Every kid has the
right to grow up
safe, healthy and
free from injury.



More than 1.2 million unintentional poisonings among children ages five and under are reported each year. 9 out of 10 of these occur in the home.

Children are unintentionally poisoned primarily by medicines, household products, lead and carbon monoxide.

When exposed to poison, children are more likely to suffer serious consequences because they are smaller, have faster metabolic rates and their bodies are less capable of handling toxic chemicals.

Who is at Risk?

- Curiosity and the desire to put everything in their mouths place children at a higher risk than adults.
- Children 5 years of age and under account for most poison exposures; children under the age of 2 are especially at risk.
- Male children are more likely than females to be poisoned.
- Children are more likely to suffer from elevated blood levels of lead if they live in older housing.

Common Agents Involved in Poisoning:

- **Medications:** aspirin, tranquilizers, sleeping pills, iron pills, vitamins, prescription and non-prescription drugs.
- **Household products:** Moth balls, furniture polish, drain cleaners, bleach, paint thinner, cosmetics and insect killer.



Poisoning Hazards in the Home

Medications & Health Supplements

Millions of people purchase and use prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, vitamins and other health supplements daily. Most of these medications come with child-resistant packaging.

Prevention Tips:

- Prescription medicines, vitamins, and health supplements should always be stored in their original containers with child-resistant closures, locked up and out of children's reach.
- When giving medications to children, use only age-appropriate medications and give dosages according to weight, as indicated on the medicine label.
- Avoid taking medications in front of children, as they tend to imitate grown-ups.
- Never refer to medicine as "candy".
- Teach children not to drink or eat anything unless it is given to them by an adult.
- Check your home often for old medications or substances and discard them.
- Keep all medications in their original containers.

Household Chemicals

Most households have several different types of solid or liquid household cleaners, bleaches, pesticides and other types of cleaning products. These chemicals tend to be stored under kitchen or bathroom sinks or in laundry areas. Such storage areas present easy access to children and are potential poisoning hazards.

Prevention Tips:

- Household chemicals should be stored in their original containers, clearly labeled and with child-resistant closures whenever possible.

- Never "create" a new cleaning solution by mixing two or more products. This can produce a product that is more toxic than either of the original ones.

Lead Poison

Children can also experience chronic poisoning; this occurs with exposure to lead and other heavy metals consumed in small amounts over long periods of time. These heavy metals accumulate in the body and can cause physical and mental illnesses and learning disabilities.

Sources of these hazards include lead-based paints, ceramics, leaded water pipes and even dirt. Children can be exposed to lead from lead dust by eating paint chips, chewing on windowsills and other surfaces coated in lead-based paint, and during home renovation or repainting.

Prevention Tips:

- Homes built before 1978 should be checked for lead-based paint hazards. Lead paint should be covered with a sealant or removed by a professional lead abatement company. Cleanup and dust testing should be done after lead paint is disturbed, call 1-800-424-LEAD for more information.
- Have children tested for lead poisoning if there is a chance of exposure.

Poisoning Prevention

Child-Resistant Packaging

Child-resistant packaging is effective at preventing poisoning among children.

However child-resistant does not mean that the child cannot get into the container. In fact, test protocol for child-resistant packaging allows for 15%-20% of 4 year old children to be able to open the packaging within a given period of time. Therefore, all poisonous products should always be stored in their original containers and locked out of children's reach.