



PALMETTO POISON CENTER

1-800-222-1222

Caregiver Guide

What is a poison?

A poison is a substance that can cause injury or death if it comes in contact with your body. Poisons come in all different shapes, sizes, and colors. Some poisons are even odorless and colorless. If you don't know what it is – stay away!

How can you be poisoned?

Poisons can enter the body several ways:

- Ingestion (eating or drinking something)
- Contact (splashing or spilling something on the skin or in the eyes)
- Inhalation (breathing dangerous fumes)
- Bites/stings from insects, snakes or spiders

How do accidental poisonings happen?

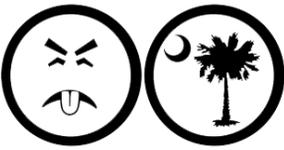
- Improper storage of poisons (Ex. Storing poisons where children can reach them)
- Improper use (Ex. Mixing household chemicals like bleach and ammonia or taking medication without reading the label)
- Children imitating adults

Who are we?

The **Palmetto Poison Center** is a non-profit organization dedicated to the prevention of poisonings and providing clinical advice to the general public and the health care community.

We serve all 46 counties of South Carolina, providing information and advice completely **free of charge**. We are staffed by nurses and pharmacists who are formally trained in toxicology and are specialists in providing poison information.

We are available **24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year**. Our calls range from accidental and intentional ingestion of poisonous substances to adverse drug reactions, snake and spider bites, and occupational or biochemical exposures.



Children and Poison

Young children usually do not understand that they can poison themselves. Children under 5 are very curious about the things around them. All potential poisons should be kept up high and out of reach or under a lock and key.



Let's poison proof your home:

1. Look at the **Household Checklist** for a list of potential poisons in the home.
2. Locate all potential poisons and store them high and out of reach.
3. Post the number for Poison Control in your home. **1-800-222-1222**



Teach Kids About Poison

- You cannot always tell a poison by the way it looks, smells, or tastes!
- Some candy looks like medicine. Always ask before you eat anything that is not given to you by an adult.
- Sometimes things that are poisonous smell good. Some types of cleaning products smell like apple, for example, but are very harmful if swallowed.
- You should not put plants in your mouth. You never know if they could be poisonous.
- Never put cosmetic-type products in your mouth. Examples are makeup, perfume, face cream.

HOUSEHOLD CHECKLIST

Keep These Items Up High and Out of Reach or Stay Away!



KITCHEN

- Soaps
- Dish Detergent
- Furniture Polish
- Drain Cleaners
- Oven Cleaners
- Ant/Roach Killers
- Mouse/Rat Poison
- Floor Cleaners
- Alcohols

BATHROOM

- Medications
- Mouthwash
- Cleaning Supplies
- Shampoos
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Eye Drops

BEDROOM

- Cosmetics
- Perfume
- Baby powder
- Medicines

LAUNDRY ROOM

- Bleach
- Detergent
- Cleaners

GARAGE OR STORAGE AREAS

- Antifreeze
- Pesticides
- Gasoline
- Paint Removers
- Weed Killers
- Windshield Fluids
- Gas/Oil Treatments

LIVING ROOM

- Plants
- Cigarettes
- Lamp Oil

OUTDOOR

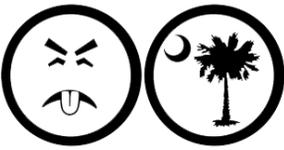
- Plants
- Mushrooms
- Snakes
- Spiders
- Pesticides
- Herbicides
- Fertilizers

PALMETTO POISON CENTER

 poison.sc.edu
 palmettopc@cop.sc.edu
 803-777-7909

1-800-222-1222

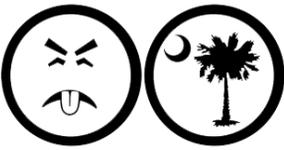
In case of a poison emergency, call our 24/7 hotline for fast, free and professional help.



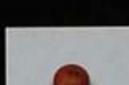
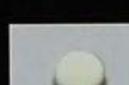
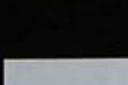
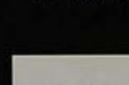
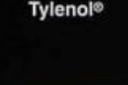
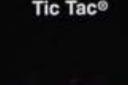
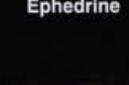
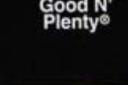
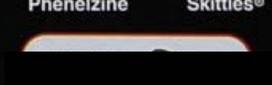
Dangerous Look-alikes

Take a look at the following pictures. These products were chosen because of the color or packaging.

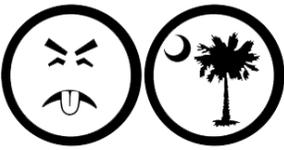
Can you see how a child might confuse these products?



Is it Candy or Medicine?

 Dolobid®	 Good N' Fruity®	 Ferrous Sulfate	 Red Hots®	 Tegretol®	 Smarties®
 Children's Vitamins	 Tangy Bunnies	 Depakene	 Good N' Fruity®	 Pseudoephedrine	 Cinnamon Candy
 Ferrous Gluconate	 M&M®	 Amantadine	 Good N' Fruity®	 Bethanechol	 Sweetarts®
 Aspirin	 Skittles®	 Mesoridazine	 M&M® (small)	 Simethicone Chewable	 Altoid® Mint
 Tylenol®	 Tic Tac®	 Ephedrine	 Good N' Plenty®	 Phenelzine	 Skittles®
 Valproic Acid	 Good N' Plenty®	 Ibuprofen	 Good N' Plenty®		
				 Amitriptyline	 Cinnamon

Borrowed from NY State Poison Center



Quiz

How much do you know about poison safety now?

1. **The Poison Control Center Provides Free Service:**
 - a) 24/7, 365 days a year
 - b) Monday-Friday 9am-5pm
2. **If someone has been poisoned, you should:**
 - a) Call 911
 - b) Call 1-800-222-1222
 - c) Drive straight to the emergency room
 - d) Make the person vomit immediately
3. **The use of child resistant packaging always prevents accidental poisoning.**
 - a) True
 - b) False
4. **Cleaning with one product is good, mixing two or more together is even better.**
 - a) True
 - b) False
5. **Poison can enter the body through your eyes.**
 - a) True
 - b) False
6. **Children love to imitate adults therefore we should not take medicine in front of them.**
 - a) True
 - b) False
7. **The best place to store poisons and keep them away from children is _____.**
 - a) in the kitchen cabinet with a child safety lock
 - b) in the garage in plastic storage bins
 - c) up high and out of reach of children
8. **You can always tell a poison by the way it looks or smells.**
 - a) True
 - b) False