



## National Poison Prevention Week March 14 - 20

March 2010

The third week of March marks National Poison Prevention Month. With this week comes a reminder to everyone of the importance of keeping toxic and dangerous materials out of reach of children. Poison prevention also requires adults to be mindful of drugs and medications, and when using household chemicals.

Just one lapse of judgment or container mix-up is all it would take for a serious accident to occur. One important reminder of this week will be to commit families to post the Nation Poison Control Hotline number (1-800-222-1222) next to phones, where chemicals are stored, and/or programmed into your cell phone for quick and easy reference.

There are many simple things you can do to prevent accidental poisoning at home or in any environment where hazardous chemicals are stored or used.

- Always store chemicals and medicines out of reach of children. If you are keeping cleaning products under a sink or in low cabinet spaces, make sure you have child proof locks on doors, and child proof caps on bottles and containers.
- Keep all products in the original containers. This helps to identify the product and also reduces the likelihood of mistakenly using the wrong products. You should never use old drink bottles, such as water or juice containers, to store chemicals. A common mix-up could be deadly.
- Never mix chemicals together, unless they are part of a multi-part system that the manufacturer designed to be used in that manner. Mixing chemicals can have adverse reactions such as production of toxic fumes or instability.
- Use good personal hygiene and encourage it with children. This includes preventing chemicals from spilling on you with protective clothing (such as gloves), changing clothes when materials have spilled, and washing your hands to prevent cross-contamination.

If a poisoning does occur, call 911 if the victim is unconscious or not breathing. If the victim is alert, call the Poison Control Hotline at 1-800-222-1222 for further instruction. When calling have the following information available:

- Age and weight
- Have the container available if possible
- The time of the exposure
- The address where the exposure occurred.

Remember to stay calm and follow the instructions of the operator.

This year, please observe National Poison Prevention Week by following these and other useful tips provided to prevent serious injuries from handling and storing chemicals and other toxic substances.

For more information please review the following links:

[National Poison Prevention Week Council](#)

[American Association of Poison Control Centers](#)



Chris Hall  
Safety Resources, Inc.

Newsletter Spotlight

“There are many simple things you can do to prevent accidental poisoning.”

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