

Poison Prevention Press

July/August 2019

Volume 12, Issue 4

Up and Away and Out of Sight Campaign

This campaign emphasizes six main points for safe medicine storage:

1. Pick a place your children cannot reach.
2. Put medicines up and away after each use.
3. Make sure the safety cap is locked.
4. Teach your children about medicine safety.
5. Tell guests about medicine safety.
6. Be prepared in case of an emergency.

Do not store medicine on the counter or nightstand between doses. These also ensure your medicines are safe and secure from others.

More information at <https://www.upandaway.org/>

Did you know that...

- 46% of parents think child-resistant packaging means a child won't be able to get in at all?
- 34% of parents think that medicines in child-resistant packaging can be stored visible and handy?

Follow the MPC on
[Facebook](#) & [Twitter](#)

Understanding Safe Storage

Safe storage is one of the best ways to help prevent poisonings and overdoses. Read on to help ensure your home is poison safe for your family, visitors, and pets.

Child-resistant Packaging

In the 1950s and 60s, hundreds of children died each year after getting into household products and medicines. As a result, efforts were made to raise awareness and educate people about storing products out of children's reach. But children were still dying. This led Congress to pass the [Poison Prevention Packaging Act of 1970](#) requiring medicines and select household products to have child-resistant tops or packaging. It must be significantly difficult for children under five years of age to open these products within a reasonable time, but not difficult for adults to use properly. These packages and tops are not "child-proof." They are not meant to keep the child out completely; they are intended to slow the child down and not give them easy access to the product inside.

Cabinet Latches

Cabinet latches are meant to slow children down, not keep them out of cabinets entirely. There are a variety of latches available that can easily be installed. The best time to install them is before a child starts to crawl. Cabinet latches are effective tools that limit a child's access to harmful household items.

Garage, Basement, and Backyard Shed

Chemicals, paints, automotive products, pesticides, and herbicides are typically stored in these areas. Store all of these items in a locked cabinet. Keep these products in their original labeled containers. Poison centers have managed many cases about someone getting hurt after drinking a chemical that was stored in a beverage bottle.

Items in Plain Sight

Personal care and household products are often left sitting out in plain sight. Items like soap, air freshener, shampoo, deodorant, lotions, plants, and arts and crafts supplies -- just to name a few. Proper supervision of young children is key to keeping them away from these products.

Know the names of your indoor plants. Use our [plant list](#) to see if they are safe to have in the home with children or pets. Not everything on the poisonous list will need to be discarded. Call the poison center to ask for more information. Make sure leaves or flowers have not fallen on the floor.

Toys should be age appropriate. Toys with magnets and small batteries should not be available to young children. Talk with older children about keeping these types of toys in a safe place where younger siblings cannot get ahold of them.

Following the tips provided here will help your family remain poison safe. But if the unthinkable happens, help from experts is just a phone call away at 1-800-222-1222 any time, day or night.

Subscribe to **Poison Prevention Press** and read past issues at www.mdpoison.com