



**Maryland Poison Center**  
University of Maryland School of Pharmacy  
**1-800-222-1222**

# Poison Prevention Press

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## March 16-22, 2008 is Poison Prevention Week

- Post the telephone number for the poison center near your phone
- Poison proof your home

Materials order form and poison proofing checklist are on the MPC website  
[www.mdpoison.com](http://www.mdpoison.com)

## Did you know that...

Child-resistant containers are not child-proof. Young children can and will open a child-resistant container if given enough time. Make sure medicines are stored out of sight and out of reach, ideally in a locked cabinet.

## Get To Know the Maryland Poison Center

The Maryland Poison Center has been providing emergency telephone consultation on poisonings and overdoses for over 35 years. Located at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy in Baltimore since 1972, the center has developed into a state of the art partner in the health care field. Staffed 24/7 by specially trained pharmacists and nurses, the Maryland Poison center is the place to call when you have a poison emergency. Whether you are a parent of a curious toddler who just drank a cleaning product or a nurse in an emergency department where a patient arrived after taking an overdose of his own medications, the poison center can help. In fact, the poison center helps over 65,000 callers in Maryland every year. The Maryland Poison Center can be used in non-emergency situations as well. The specialists in poison information can answer poison and drug information questions and can assist when pets get into things they shouldn't. Keep the number of the poison experts near every phone... 1-800-222-1222. Expert help is just a phone call away.



## Children Are at Highest Risk

Over 50% of the human exposure calls to the Maryland Poison Center deal with children under the age of 6 years old. Young children are curious and learn by touching. They will often put things in their mouth as they are learning about them. Young children are also fooled by cleaners and medicines that look like juice or medicines that look like candy. Imitating adult behavior can also put young children in a poison predicament. If they see a grown-up taking medicine, they want to do the same, so it is very important to keep medicines in child-resistant containers and stored in a place not easily accessible to children. Household products should be stored in a locked cabinet to help ensure small children won't get into them. Storage on a high shelf is not the best idea since some children will create ways to get to them, putting them at risk not only of a poisoning, but also of a fall.