



Maryland Poison Center

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

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poison prevention press

Toys as a Poison Hazard

The Consumer Product Safety Commission announced that in 2012, more than 2 million units of dangerous toys and children's products were seized at U.S. ports. This will certainly help keep children safe this holiday season. But parents must do more.

- Button batteries from toys can easily be swallowed by small children. In addition to being a choking hazard, the battery can become lodged in the throat causing internal injuries.

- Toys with high powered magnets should be kept away from children under 14. Building and play sets with small magnets should be kept away from small children. Magnets can cause internal injuries when more than one magnet is swallowed.

Call the poison center right away if you suspect a child has swallowed a button battery or magnet.

Did you know that...

- Poinsettias do not cause serious harm to people and pets when eaten?
- Alcohol may lower a child's blood sugar when swallowed; keep alcoholic drinks, perfumes, and hand sanitizers away from kids.

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'Tis the Season to be Poisoned

'Twas the morning post-party, when all through the house,
No adult was stirring, not even your spouse.
The children, you thought, were asleep in their beds.
But, what you didn't know, they had other ideas in their heads.

Your house was awash in post-party trash,
And the kids thought this was a gold mine—better than cash.
There were ashtrays with butts and glasses with drink,
And a visitor's purse lay there by the sink.

The kids were delighted and felt ever so free,
And then their bright eyes—locked onto the tree!
There was tinsel, and lights that bubbled so merry,
And a strange plant with fruits, called "Jerusalem Cherry".
Food was left out on the table all night,
And if they could have seen the bacteria—what a horrible sight!
And there by the fireplace was a box shaped just right,
That contained some powder to make fire colors bright.
A small toy broke open, and there at their feet,
Was a round tiny battery that looked good to eat.

As you see your home, where you thought poisons naught,
On this holiday season, was NOT as safe as you thought!
As you rose from your sleep and rubbed your eyes free,
You looked for the kids, and a disaster you see!

You sprang to the phone, not a moment to spare,
And talked to the folks you knew would be there.
Your poison center sure helped you get through the mix,
And you thought—"How'd we ever get into this fix?"
For you see holidays can present problems so rare,
That before they can happen, you must be sure to prepare.

It takes just a moment to think what might be,
And clean up your trash, so your home's poison free.
And so, my dear friends, keep the holidays bright,
Put all away, and sleep peaceful tonight.
Have a holiday bright, that is full of good cheer,
And from the staff of the poison center—"Have a Safe Year!"

*Written by John H. Trestrail III, R.Ph, ABAT
Clinical and Forensic Toxicologist*

POISON CENTER HOTLINE: 1-800-222-1222