



Poison Prevention Press

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MPC Poison Safety Info on the Go

Get important poison safety tips and other information wherever you are.

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mdpoison.com

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Text "POISON" to 797979 to save and share the Poison Center contact card.

Did you know that...

- We can connect with interpreters in 240+ languages within minutes for non-English speaking callers?
- We can help with more than just swallowed poisons?

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The Truth Behind Poison Myths

The Maryland Poison Center (MPC) manages more than 37,000 cases per year. These cases involve medicines, cleaning products, chemicals, food, bites, stings, and more. There are many myths about poisons and poison centers. We're here to provide the truth behind these myths.

Myth 1: Calls to the poison center are answered by robots, automated voices, or volunteers.

Truth 1: When you call the MPC, you will be greeted by a recording, but it's one of our specialists letting you know that you've reached the MPC. After the brief recording, you will reach one of our pharmacists or nurses who are trained to manage poisonings and overdoses. The specialists at the MPC have over 210 years of combined experience managing cases.

Myth 2: Calling the poison center will get me reported.

Truth 2: Calling the poison center is confidential. We work in the same way as your health care provider's office using HIPAA. Your health information is safe with us.

Myth 3: Poison centers are only for children.

Truth 3: Poison centers are for everyone! We have cases ranging from ages 0-100+. Historically there have been more poisoning cases reported in children under the age of six than any other age group. Now less than half of cases reported to poison centers involve a young child, and we have managed about as many cases in children under six years as we have in adults ages 20-59.

Myth 4: Children won't eat things that taste bad.

Truth 4: Children's sense of taste does not fully develop until they are older. What tastes bad to an adult may not taste bad to a child. Children are curious about their environment and they may put something in their mouths.

Myth 5: Herbal, natural, and organic remedies products are completely safe and non-toxic.

Truth 5: All herbal, natural, or organic remedies, personal care products, and cleaning products cannot be assumed to be safe and non-toxic. A product with natural ingredients means that they come from nature and are not man-made. If used in the wrong way, wrong amount, or by the wrong person, they can be harmful.

Myth 6: Children can't open child-proof containers

Truth 6: There is no such thing as child-proof! There are child-resistant products and containers, but they are meant to slow children down, not keep them out completely. Given enough time, most children will be able to open something that is child resistant.

Myth 7: Symptoms from poisonings occur immediately.

Truth 7: While some poisons cause symptoms immediately, not all of them do. The amount of time it takes for symptoms to develop depends on the substance and how the person is exposed. Always call the poison center right away if someone has been poisoned.

Now you know the truth behind these common poison myths. As always, if you have a question or someone has been poisoned, the poison experts are available 24/7 by calling 1-800-222-1222. Your call is always free and confidential.