

Poison Prevention Press

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First Aid for Poisonings

Perform the following first aid, then call 1-800-222-1222 for more information.

Swallowed Poison:

- Gently wipe out mouth and give a small amount of water.
- Do not make the person vomit.

Poison on the Skin:

- Remove contaminated clothing and jewelry.
- Rinse skin with lukewarm water for 10 minutes.

Poison in the Eye:

- Flush the eye with lukewarm water from cup, faucet, or shower for 15 minutes.
- Do not force the eyelid open.

Inhaled Poison:

- Get the person to fresh air.
- Open doors and windows.

Did you know that...

- Button batteries can get caught in the esophagus if swallowed and cause severe damage?
- Poinsettia are not poisonous to humans?

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A Wrapped Gift—Holiday Poison Safety

As we approach the holiday season, we'd like to take a moment to share something with you – a wrapped gift of all the resources we have created over the years to ensure you and your family have a poison-safe holiday season!

Carbon Monoxide

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, and poisonous gas. The risk for CO poisoning increases during the winter months due to the use of furnaces, fireplaces, and portable generators and heaters. If you warm up your car before you get in it, be sure to pull the car out of the garage first. Even with the garage door open, a running car can still create CO. Review other important safety tips in our [CO information sheet](#) and our [CO blog](#).

Food Poisoning

The holiday season is a time to gather with friends and family to celebrate, which also includes sharing food! Food poisoning is caused by contamination during preparation, not being cooked to the right internal temperature, not being stored at the right temperature within two hours of preparing, and eating leftovers after a specific period of time. For general information about food poisoning, visit our [Preventing Food Poisoning blog](#).

Toys

As we purchase toys for the holiday season, there are a few important items to be on the lookout for. Toys that have magnets or button batteries are a risk if the magnets or button batteries can be easily removed. For more information on toy safety, visit our [Toy Safety for Your Tiny Tots blog](#).

Alcohol and Cannabis

Alcohol is commonly served at holiday gatherings. If there are children attending the gathering, have guests keep a close eye on their alcoholic beverage and not leave it somewhere a child can reach it. Another thing to keep in mind regarding alcohol during the holiday season is hidden sources of alcohol, including extracts used for baking. More information about alcohol and hidden sources can be found in our [alcohol blog](#).

Cannabis products can also be present during holiday gatherings. Be sure to clearly label any products that contain cannabis as such. Cannabis products should always be stored up, away, and out of sight between uses. The preferred way to store these products is locked up. Children physically react to cannabis differently than adults. Specific symptoms for children exposed to cannabis can be found in our [edibles information sheet](#). We also have additional cannabis resources available, including a [general cannabis blog](#), [cannabis edibles blog](#), and a [storing cannabis safely information sheet](#).

Traveling

Traveling brings an increased risk of poisonings. While traveling, people typically keep their medicine and toiletries in a suitcase. Unfortunately, these can be easily accessed by children, pets, and others. For general information, visit our [Poison Safety Tips While Traveling blog](#), and for specific information about medicine, visit our [Traveling with Medicine blog](#).

Plants

There are popular plants that are staples in holiday decorating. Before you grab a plant to spruce up your holiday decorations, review our [Holiday Plants blog](#) to check that it's a safe choice for your family.

For a lighter, one stop read on multiple holiday hazards, visit our [12 Days of Poison Hazards blog](#). Happy Holidays! If you or someone you know has been poisoned or has a question about a poison, we are available 24/7 at 1-800-222-1222. Even on a holiday!