

## Household Safety Tips

- Use child-resistant packaging properly by closing the container securely after use.
- Keep all chemicals and medicines locked up and out of sight.
- When products are in use, never let young children out of your sight, even if you must take the child or product along when answering the phone or doorbell.
- Keep items in original containers.
- Leave the original labels on all products, and read the label before using.
- Always leave the light on when giving or taking medicine. Check the dosage every time.
- Avoid taking medicine in front of children. Refer to medicine as "medicine," not "candy."
- Clean out the medicine cabinet periodically, and safely dispose of unneeded medicines when the illness for which they were prescribed is over. Pour contents down drain or toilet, and rinse the container before discarding.
- Call the poison center at 1-800-222-1222 immediately in case of poisoning.

This booklet was prepared and is distributed by the Michigan Pharmacists Association and your pharmacist to stimulate public education on poison prevention and preparedness.



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**KIDS ACT FAST ...  
SO DO POISONS**

# You Can Prevent Tragedy



# Children Act Fast ...

## YOUNG CHILDREN ARE CURIOUS

Bright bottles, colored pills, nice smelling liquids and things that glitter are enticing to children. It takes only a moment while you are not looking for your child to put a dangerous substance in his or her mouth. It is important to keep dangerous substances out of reach.

Medicines, especially iron supplements, cleaning products, insect spray, paints, furniture polish, cigarettes, mouthwash and products containing acids are frequent causes of accidental poisoning.

## IN CASE OF AN EXPOSURE

In case of an eye exposure, begin irrigation of the eyes with comfortable warm water. Call the poison control center.

For all other exposures, call the poison control center immediately. Do not stop to read the directions on the label. Many products have incorrect information on them.

Do not administer Syrup of Ipecac unless instructed by your poison control center. There are many times when it may be more harmful to make a person vomit as with chemicals that burn and irritate the throat.

## POISON CONTROL CENTERS

Poison control centers now have a nationwide toll-free number. No matter where you are in the United States, the number will always remain the same, 1-800-222-1222, and your call will be routed to the nearest poison control center.

When calling a poison control center, it is important to stay calm, have the label of the substance with you and be prepared to give the professional the following information:

- The victim's age and weight
- Any existing health conditions or problems
- The substance involved, and how it was contacted. [e.g., swallowed, absorbed by the skin, splashed in the eyes]
- Any first aid that was given
- If the victim has vomited
- How long it has been since ingestion
- Your location and the nearest hospital



**Poison Control Center:**

1-800-222-1222

**Doctor's name:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Doctor's phone:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Hospital:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Police:**

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## CHILD-RESISTANT CONTAINERS

It is important to remember that medicines and other packages may be child-resistant, but they are NOT childproof. These types of substances must still be stored carefully and kept away from children. After using a product, always re-secure the child resistant closure.

## MEDICINES ARE MEDICINES

Never call medicines "candy." This is deceiving to children who may try to eat or drink the remainder of the bottle when left alone. Old medications that are no longer used should be disposed of. Pour contents down the drain or toilet, not into the trash, and rinse the bottle before putting it in the trash.

## HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS

Read the labels and follow all directions while using products. Store them where they cannot be reached by children.

Never store household chemicals or any other products in bottles or containers used for food or drink. Be careful of auto repair liquids stored in the garage. Always use child-resistant closures, and keep these materials locked up and out of the reach of children.

# ... So Do Poisons.