



# Preventing Poisonings in the Home

A poison is anything that can make you sick, hurt you, or even kill you if it gets into your body through your mouth, nose, eyes, or skin. Poisons found in and around the home include: cleaning products, laundry products, garden and lawn care products, auto fluids and cosmetics. These poisons often come in bright colors and pretty bottles. Children may mistake poisons for something good to eat or drink. Medicines and vitamins can also be a poison. Both prescription and over-the-counter medicines can be a poison if you take too much or use them the wrong way. Plants can also be a poison. Both indoor and outdoor plants can be harmful if they are used in the wrong way.

## First Aid

In case of a poisoning, follow these first-aid steps:

For Swallowed Poisons:

- Call the GPC right away.

For Poisons in the Eye:

- Flush the victim's eye with lukewarm water for about 20 minutes.
- Call the GPC

For Inhaled (Breathed In) Poisons:

- Get the victim to fresh air right away.
- Call the GPC.

For Poisons on the Skin:

- Take off any clothing that has poison on it.
- Rinse the victim's skin with water for 20 minutes.
- Call the GPC

## Poison Safety

Here are some safety tips to help keep your family safe from poisons. Use the Home Safety Checklist (on the back) to help you store the listed poisons safely!

### 1. Store Poison Safely

- Store poisons in locked cabinets out of reach and sight of children and pets.
- Keep poisons stored in the bottles they came in. Make sure the bottles are clearly labeled.
- Never store poisons in drink or food bottles.
- Never store poisons in the same area where you store food items.
- Keep medicines and vitamins in bottle with child-safety caps (child resistant packaging). Make sure the lids are closed tightly at all times.

### 2. Use Poisons Safely

- Before you use a poison, read the label on the bottle.
  - While you are using a poison, never leave it out where a child may get to it.
  - After you use a poison, put it back in a locked cabinet. Make sure the bottle is closed tightly.
  - Never call medicine "candy." A child may eat the medicine thinking it is candy.
  - Do not take medicine in front of children or give medicine to one child while another is watching. Children may be tempted to take the medicine later, when you are not watching.
- ### 3. Know What to do in a Poisoning Emergency
- Keep the phone number of the Georgia Poison Center (GPC) on or near your phones.
  - If you think someone has been poisoned, call the GPC right away at 1-800-222-1222. You can also email or chat with us by visiting our website at [www.georgiapoisoncenter.org](http://www.georgiapoisoncenter.org). Never wait for the person to look or feel sick!

**Child Safety Caps are not child proof! Some children can open these caps. This is why it is important to keep medicines and vitamins locked up!**

**IN A POISONING EMERGENCY, CALL 24-HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK:  
1-800-222-1222  
Teletype for the deaf and hearing Impaired only:  
TDD 404-616-9287**

## Calling the Georgia Poison Center...

When you call the GPC, take the poison with you to the phone. You may be asked to read the label on the container. You will be asked to give:

- Your name, phone number, county, and zip code
- The name of the substance or poison
- The victim's name, age and weight
- The amount of the substance or poison
- Any symptoms the victim has
- Any current health problems the victim has
- The time the poisoning took place
- Any medicines the victim is taking

## Syrup of Ipecac

Syrup of Ipecac is a plant extract used to make a person throw up. At this time, the GPC recommends that Syrup of Ipecac should no longer be used in the home as a poison treatment. For questions or concerns, call the poison center at 1-800-222-1222.

## Home Safety Checklist

Use this checklist to make sure the poisons listed are stored in locked cabinets, out of the reach and sight of children and pets. Call the Poison Center right away if you think someone has been poisoned by any of the poisons listed.

\*The poisons marked with an asterisk (\*) can be very dangerous. Be very careful when using and storing these poisons.

For a listing of poisonous plants, call the GPC Education Department at 404.616.9235.

<b>Kitchen/Laundry Area</b>	<b>Bathroom</b>	<b>Bedroom</b>	<b>Garage/Basement/Storage</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Air Fresheners	<input type="checkbox"/> Air Fresheners	<input type="checkbox"/> Cigarettes/Chewing Tobacco*	<input type="checkbox"/> Antifreeze*
<input type="checkbox"/> Ammonia	<input type="checkbox"/> After-Shave Lotions	<input type="checkbox"/> Cologne/Perfumes	<input type="checkbox"/> Bug Killers*
<input type="checkbox"/> Bleach	<input type="checkbox"/> Cleaners*	<input type="checkbox"/> Make-up	<input type="checkbox"/> Fertilizers
<input type="checkbox"/> Bug Killers*	<input type="checkbox"/> Cologne/Perfumes	<input type="checkbox"/> Medicines*	<input type="checkbox"/> Gasoline
<input type="checkbox"/> Cigarettes/Chewing Tobacco*	<input type="checkbox"/> False Fingernail Removers*	<input type="checkbox"/> Plants	<input type="checkbox"/> Glues
<input type="checkbox"/> Cleaners	<input type="checkbox"/> Hair Removers	<b>Living Room</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Kerosene
<input type="checkbox"/> Dishwasher Detergent	<input type="checkbox"/> Hair Styling Products	<input type="checkbox"/> Cigarettes/Chewing Tobacco*	<input type="checkbox"/> Lighter Fluids
<input type="checkbox"/> Drain Cleaners*	<input type="checkbox"/> Lotions, Creams, Oils	<input type="checkbox"/> Liquor	<input type="checkbox"/> Lime*
<input type="checkbox"/> Fabric Softeners	<input type="checkbox"/> Make-up	<input type="checkbox"/> Plants	<input type="checkbox"/> Lye*
<input type="checkbox"/> Furniture Polishes	<input type="checkbox"/> Medicines*	<input type="checkbox"/> Tape or Stereo Cleaners	<input type="checkbox"/> Moth Balls
<input type="checkbox"/> Laundry Detergents	<input type="checkbox"/> Mouthwash*	<input type="checkbox"/> VCR/DVD Cleaners	<input type="checkbox"/> Pains
<input type="checkbox"/> Liquor	<input type="checkbox"/> Nail Polish/Removers	<b>Yard</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Paint Thinners
<input type="checkbox"/> Medicines*	<input type="checkbox"/> Rubbing Alcohol*	<input type="checkbox"/> Berries	<input type="checkbox"/> Pool Supplies
<input type="checkbox"/> Metal Cleaners*	<input type="checkbox"/> Shampoos	<input type="checkbox"/> Bug Killers*	<input type="checkbox"/> Rodent Killers
<input type="checkbox"/> Oven Cleaners*	<input type="checkbox"/> Shaving Creams	<input type="checkbox"/> Fertilizers	<input type="checkbox"/> Turpentine
<input type="checkbox"/> Plants	<input type="checkbox"/> Soaps	<input type="checkbox"/> Flowers	<input type="checkbox"/> Weed Killers*
<input type="checkbox"/> Rust Removers*	<input type="checkbox"/> Toilet Bowl Cleaners*	<input type="checkbox"/> Flower Bulbs	<input type="checkbox"/> Windshield Wiper Fluid*
<input type="checkbox"/> Scouring Powders	<input type="checkbox"/> Vitamins	<input type="checkbox"/> Mushrooms*	
<input type="checkbox"/> Vitamins		<input type="checkbox"/> Shrubs and Trees	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Weed Killers*	



Certified as a Regional Poison  
Center by the American  
Association of Poison Control  
Centers.

## The Georgia Poison Center

Each year, the Georgia Poison Center provides services to thousands of people in Georgia. You can call the GPC to get help in a poisoning emergency or to get treatment advice about animal or insect bites. Nurses, pharmacists, and doctors answer the phones 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. They can tell you what to do if you, your child, or your pet is poisoned or was bitten by an animal. In addition, the GPC staff can answer your questions about poisons in and around your home.

All calls to the GPC are free.

To order educational material, call the Education Department at 404.616.9235 or visit our website at [www.georgiapoisoncenter.org](http://www.georgiapoisoncenter.org)

**Georgia Poison Center**  
Grady Health System  
80 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive, SE  
PO Box 26066  
Atlanta, GA 30303-3050