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50 YEARS

Poison Prevention

Newsletter

July 2008

SUNY Upstate Medical University
University Hospital • 750 East Adams Street • Syracuse, NY 13210

Frequently Asked Questions on Pesticides

It is the season for pesticides. Although, pesticides are used to kill potential disease-causing organisms and control insects, weeds, and other pests, pesticides can cause harm to humans, animals, or the environment. Here are some frequently asked questions on pesticides.

What is a pesticide? The EPA defines a pesticide as any substance or mixture of substances intended for: preventing, destroying, or repelling, any pest such as: insects, mice and other animals, unwanted plants (weeds), fungi, bacteria and viruses.

What kind of household products contain pesticides? Many household products are considered pesticides. Products such as: cockroach sprays and baits, insect repellents, rat and other rodent poisons, flea and tick sprays, powders, and pet collars, kitchen, laundry and bath disinfectants and sanitizers, and products that kill mold and mildew. Some lawn and garden products, such as weed killers and

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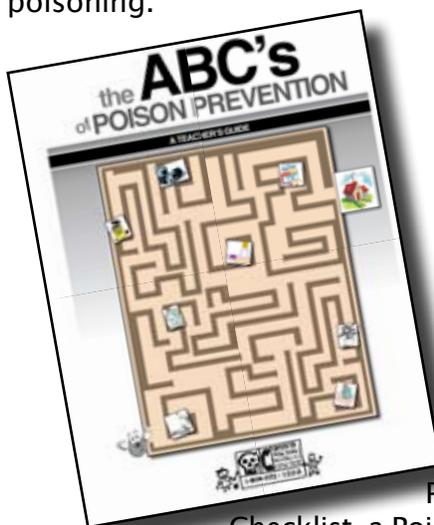
Poisoning continues to be one of the leading causes of injury and death in the United States. Every year, over two million people are unintentionally poisoned, with children under the age of 5 years being the greatest risk for poisoning. Nearly 90 percent of these poisonings occur in the home.

When planning for your summer vacation, think about poison prevention. Whether you are taking a short weekend getaway or a vacation for several weeks, unintentional poison exposures can and do happen.

A Trip To A Relative Or Friend's Home

Spending time in someone else's home could mean that you are not familiar with the products they use and the places they are stored. They might be using medications that you normally are not exposed to. Especially if you have young children and the people you are visiting do not, you need to take extra care in preventing a poisoning.

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New Teachers Guide

The Poison Center is pleased to announce a newly revised Teachers' Guide!

Intended for use with students in grades pre-school through grade 2, babysitters and adults who care for children, the Guide includes: Lesson Plans, Activities, a Poison Prevention Checklist, a Poison Safety Ranger Certificate and even

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- Take the time to familiarize yourself with where medicines, cleaning products and potentially poisonous products are stored
- Ask permission to use your own safety locks on cabinets during your stay
- Be on the look out for products that “look like” or are similar to other products that if misused unintentionally could result in a poison exposure
- Ask for a safe place to store medications that you brought with you. Never leave them in your luggage or in a place where kids have access to them
- Have the national number for the Poison Center with you, 1-800-222-1222. When dialed your call is routed to the closest Poison Center. If using a cell phone you will reach the Poison Center that services your area code
- Keep medicines and healthcare products in separate plastic baggies
- Follow the rules for safe food handling, storage and preparation
- Read the label when using and applying bug repellents and sun screen products
- Don’t assume that a plant is non-toxic to humans if you see birds or other animals eating it
- Have the number of the Poison Center with you, 1-800-222-1222

Traveling to a different state or country

Each area of the world is unique in the foods, plants, and animals that habitat there. If you are traveling to a place you have never visited it is a good idea to become familiar with the natural habitats of your destination spot such as:

- Reptiles such as venomous snakes and lizards
- Arachnids including venomous spiders, scorpions, mites and ticks
- Plants, Mushrooms, and wild fruit
- Hymenoptera as in bees, wasps, flies and ants

Some may be poisonous or could cause an allergic reaction. In calling a Poison Center or traveling to an ED it would be most helpful if you knew the name of the pest.

Camping

Often time campers condense their packing to bring only the essentials on their trip. Products not normally stored together now are. Proper planning is important to keep you and other safe when camping.

- Avoid taking products out of their original containers
- Never store fuel sources or pesticides with or near food products
- Take an inventory of your first aid kit and replace old and outdated items

Frequently Asked Questions on Pesticides

swimming pool chemicals are considered to be pesticides.

How should pesticides be handled and stored? Read The Label First! Carefully reading the label on any product you bring into the home provides you the important information you will need to know such as:

1. How to use the product safely and effectively
2. How and where to store the product safely
3. The phone number to call for help or more information

If it doesn't contain the 1-800-222-1222 Poison Control number add the number to the label or

place a Poison Control telephone sticker on it.

Where can I get information on a specific pesticide product? If you have questions concerning a specific pesticide product, contact the National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) either via telephone at 1-800-858-7378, or via e-mail at npic@ace.orst.edu. For more information about NPIC, visit the NPIC Web site, <http://npic.orst.edu/>.

For more information on pesticides call 1-800-858-7378 or go to www.epa.gov/pesticides. If you think someone has been exposed to a household pesticide call the Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222.

a template for a Poison Safety Ranger Button for students to decorate and wear with pride.

The newly revised Guide includes all the background information necessary to teach children from boy scouts to babysitters, adults in PTA's, garden clubs or at community centers the types of items that can be poisonous or where to call in a poison emergency or for poison information. Most importantly, how to prevent poisonings from happening.

Additionally, the Guide lists and describes the teaching tools available through the Center including: videos in both DVD and VHS format, Look

Alike Kits and Flipcharts and the Poison Center's Medicine Box which demonstrates the similarities between some medicines and candies.

The Guide also contains an Evaluation Form for teachers and anyone who teaches one of our poison prevention lessons to complete and return to the Poison Center by mail, fax or even on-line. Feedback from our customers helps us to improve our program, so we encourage your comments.

To receive your free copy of the 66 page Guide, call Lee, our health educator at 315-464-5423 OR visit our website at www.upstatepoison.org

Teaching Tools Available for Community Outreach

Do you or someone in your organization do community outreach? Are you interested in teaching poison prevention safety to your students, clients or even staff? The Upstate New York Poison Center has teaching tools available to loan at no cost. These tools are excellent resources to teach people of all ages how an unintentional poisoning exposure can happen. Most people learn by associations with shapes, sizes, colors, pictures, touch and smell. Exposures can and do occur because of this "Look-Alike" factor. For example: a red pill can look like a red candy, or a blue color liquid can look like a soft drink OR it could be windshield washer fluid. Call today to borrow our teaching tools to help prevent unintentional poisonings from happening in your community.

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Teaching Tools Available

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Look-Alike Teaching Kit, our most effective teaching tool for any age group, is available on loan, at no cost. The kit features actual products of many common poisonous and non-poisonous household items that "look-alike". (E.g., Apple Juice and liquid Spic and Span, mini-marshmallow and mothballs, etc.). Kits are available from the Poison Center or Point of Service Agencies in our service area.

The Medicine Cabinet is our latest teaching tool that looks like a real medicine cabinet made of durable cardboard. The doors open to display matching "sets" of pills and candies behind an acrylic window. The Medicine Cabinets, an effective teaching tool for all ages are available through the Poison Center and at Point of Service Agencies.

Look-alike Flipchart: Based on research conducted with our target audience, we developed a Look-alike Flipchart containing pictures of our look-alike products for use with our poison education programming. Customers suggested a more compact version of our look-alike kits, for easier transportation. So now we have these easy-to-carry flipcharts for your use.

We also have videos, posters, brochures and more. To reserve your kit today call the Public Health Educator at 315-464-5375.

Suggested topics for our newsletter can be submitted to:



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