

TIPS FOR A SAFE CHRISTMAS:

During the festive season of Christmas, it is essential to be mindful of potential poisoning risks, especially with the presence of decorative items, festive plants, and various holiday treats. In case of an emergency or suspicion of poisoning, call the Upstate New York Poison Center at **1-800-222-1222** for immediate assistance and expert guidance.

Common Poisoning Potentials

- Mistletoe and holly berries, while visually appealing, can be toxic if swallowed. Keep them out of reach of children and pets.
- Other common holiday plants have varying toxicities: Amaryllis bulbs and leaves cause stomach pain and heart issues, Jerusalem cherry is highly toxic to pets, Poinsettia is generally safe, Yew poses life-threatening risks with red berries, and Boxwood may lead to minor toxicity and skin issues.
- Choose non-toxic plants like Christmas cactus, African violet, Begonia, Jade plant, or Coleus.

Food, Drinks, Tobacco and Cannabis Products:

- Combat food poisoning by keeping hot food hot and cold food cold. Refrigerate or freeze any perishable food within two hours.
- Holiday parties often feature an array of alcoholic drinks. Make sure to keep beverages secured and out of reach of children.
- Don't leave tobacco products like cigarettes or vape pens in view of children. Even a small amount of vape juice can be toxic to a child. Just one cigarette (or butt) swallowed by a child could mean a trip to a hospital.
- Cannabis can look like candy or baked goods; do not leave it unattended and store it away from other foods and drinks. Consider using a lock box for added safety.

Decorations & Gifts:

- Many children's toys contain lithium button batteries (flat, coin-like batteries). If eaten, they can get stuck in the throat or on the way to the stomach and cause a blockage or serious burns.
- Keep suitcases and purses out of reach of children and pets. Designate a safe space for coats, purses, and bags.

Household Chemicals:

- The hustle and bustle of holiday preparations may lead to increased use of household cleaners. Keep these products stored securely and out of sight and reach of children.
- Never mix chemicals, use cleaning products in a well-ventilated area, and keep them in original containers.



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