

# **IS YOUR HOME POISON-PROOF?**

More than 500 times a day, Florida Poison Information Center nurses, doctors, and pharmacists answer calls for help on our 24 hour emergency and information hotline.

The calls come from families like yours:

- A parent of a toddler who swallowed potent medicine or cleaner
- The older adult who confused his prescriptions
- The homeowner who splashed pesticide in her eyes

Nationally between 70-80% of all callers to the Poison Control Hotline can be safely and effectively treated at home.

Poison Control Centers save Floridians millions of dollars every year by preventing unnecessary trips to hospital emergency rooms.

## **Steps to Poison Safety:**

- Display the Poison Control Hotline 1-800-222-1222 with other emergency numbers near your phone or program it on your cell phone. Make sure babysitters and grandparents also have the number handy.
- Remove all poisons from children's reach.
- Safely dispose of medicines that are old or no longer needed.
- Create a secure area for poisons. This can be a high cabinet or a locked box in the garage.
- Keep products in their original containers.
- Locate and repair areas of flaking paint where children play.
- Never call medicine "candy". Teaching poison safety begins early!
- Find out names of plants in your house and yard. Keep houseplants out of reach of small children and pets.

## **A few more tips...**

- Teach children to "Always ask First!" If children ask before trying something new, parents get a chance to say "No"!
- Most poison deaths in the U.S. are a result of medication misuse. Call your Poison Control center for any medication mistake.

## **Poisons in the home:**

General: Flaking paint, plants, Repainted toys

Purse: Pain relievers, all medications, cosmetics

Bathroom: Aspirin, Drain cleaners, lye, hair care products, nail polish & remover, Deodorants, hair remover, Rubbing alcohol, Boric acid, All Medications, iron tablets, Hand lotions, Creams, Room deodorizers,

Suntan lotions, Toilet bowl cleaners, Pine oil & bath oil.  
Kitchen: Aspirin, Furniture polish, Cleaners and scouring powders, oven  
Cleaners, Rust removers, Drain cleaners, Powder & liquid detergents,  
Ammonia, All medications, Carpet & upholstery cleaner, Alcoholic drinks  
Bedroom: Sleeping pills, Cosmetics, jewelry cleaners, perfumes, Cigarettes &  
Tobacco products, moth balls & sprays  
Garage, Basement & Workshop: Bug killers, Lighter Fluid, Paints, Anti-freeze,  
Weed killers, lime, gasoline, turpentine, paint removers & thinners,  
Fertilizers, Rat poison

### **Questions & Answers:**

*When I call the Poison Control Center, who answers?* Doctors, nurses and pharmacists specially trained in toxicology.

*If I call Poison Control, is my information kept private?* Yes. Your call is fully confidential.

*Will I get billed for my call?* No. Our services are free to the public. Poison Control services are sponsored by the Florida Department of health, Children's medical Services.

*What if I need help on the weekends?* The Poison Control Center is available 24 hours, 7 days a week.

*What if I travel outside Florida?* Calls to 1-800-222-1222 go to the closest Poison Control center, anywhere in the U.S. There are more than 60 certified Poison Control Centers in the United States.

*Does the Poison Control come to my house and help with a poisoning or a snake in my yard?* No. We assist callers over the phone.

### **First Aid:**

If someone is having trouble breathing, has chest pain, or has fainted, call 911 IMMEDIATELY! For other poisonings, call 1-800-222-1222 for instructions.

#### **Inhaled Poisons/Gases:**

Move a person to fresh air. Avoid contact with fumes. Call Poison Control for instructions. Do not mix chemicals or cleaners. Never operate a generator indoors or near an open window to avoid carbon monoxide. Keep cars exhaust systems in good repair.

#### **Poison on the skin:**

Use gloves when applying pesticide or using chemicals. Rinse the skin with water for 10 minutes and wash with gentle soap in case of contact. Call the Poison Control center for help.

Poison in the eye:

Wear safety glasses when spraying pesticides or cleaners. If there is contact, gently rinse the eye with lukewarm water for 15 minutes. Call Poison Control for further instructions.

Swallowed Poison: In case of poisoning, do not take anything by mouth before calling poison Control. You should NEVER use syrup of Ipecac without being told to do so by a doctor. It can make things worse.

Take Action:

Use this guide to make your home safe. Share the information you learn with your friends and family. It may help you save a life!

**DON'T TAKE A CHANCE! CALL  
POISON HELP 1-800-222-1222!**

Please help us to serve you. If you have any questions regarding this information, please call the Community Affairs Unit of the Pembroke Pines Police Department at 435-6538. For medical or poison related questions, please call the Poison Control center at the number noted above.