



Anticipatory Guidance for Parents: Home Poison Safety Check List

Parents should poison proof their homes to reduce the risk of an accidental poisoning. Before children or grandchildren have a chance to get into dangerous substances, take time to go around your house looking in each room for potential problems. Be safe in your own use of these substances. Use the list below for suggestions on how to make your home safe.

Kitchen

1. Are harmful products stored away from food?
2. Check table and counter tops. Have medicines and other products been placed out of the sight and reach of children?
3. Are all cabinets (esp. low ones) containing dangerous products locked?
4. Do all dangerous products have child resistant caps securely fastened?
5. Are dangerous products in their original containers?
6. Do you always read a product's label before using it?
7. When called to the phone or door while using a product, do you always take the product or the child with you?

Bedroom

1. Are bureaus and nightstands free of medicine and other products?
2. Do you always turn on the light when taking or giving medicines?
3. Are perfumes and other cosmetics out of the sight and reach of children?
4. Do you remind house guests to keep medicines, cosmetics and other substances locked up and away from children?
5. When children are sick are their medicines always stored out of their rooms?
6. Are children's medicines always prepared out of their sight?
7. Do you avoid referring to children's medicine as "candy"?

Bathroom

1. Is the medicine cabinet locked?
2. Have all outdated medicines been destroyed?
3. Do harmful products have their safety closures securely fastened?
4. Are personal care and cleaning products kept off the edge of the tub and in locked cabinets?
5. If glasses are needed, are they always worn when getting and measuring drugs?
6. Are medicines given only to the person for whom they were prescribed?
7. Are you always careful never to mix cleaning products?

Living room

1. Are plants in and around the house out of children's reach?
2. Are cigarettes, butts and other tobacco products out of reach?
3. Do you store alcoholic beverages in a locked cabinet?
4. Are party remains, alcohol, tobacco, etc. cleaned up before going to bed in case the children get up first?
5. Are visitors purses kept out of reach of children?
6. Do you have fireplace materials where children cannot get into them?
7. Is the Poison Center's number on all phones in the house?

Laundry/Utility rooms

1. Are all laundry and cleaning products stored out of reach?
2. When using measuring cup, do you keep them out of the reach of children?
3. Do you remember never to mix cleaning products?
4. When containers are empty, are they washed twice before throwing away?

Garage/Storage areas

1. Are all dangerous products (automotive, painting, gardening, etc) stored in locked cabinets?
2. Are all products in their original containers with child-resistant closures secured tightly?
3. Do you clean up spills promptly and safely?
4. Are products disposed of in a manner protective of kids and the environment?
5. Do you use protective gear and clothing when using dangerous products?
6. When using products, are you careful to avoid breathing fumes, vapors or dust?

Reference: <http://poison.sc.edu/safechek.asp> (updated December 2007)



This information was downloaded from the Medical University of South Carolina's Physician Assistant Pediatric Emergency Medicine web site at www.musc.edu/chp/papem.