Q & A

Q: When I call poison control, who answers?
A: Doctors, nurses and pharmacists specially trained in toxicology.

Q: If I call poison control, is my information kept private?
A: Yes. Your call is fully confidential.

Q: Will I get a bill for my call?
A: No. Our services are free to the public. Poison control services are sponsored by the Florida Department of Health, Children's Medical Services.

Q: What if I need help on the weekend?
A: The poison control center is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Q: What if I travel out of Florida?
A: Calls to 1-800-222-1222 go to the poison control center that serves your phone's area code. There are more than 50 poison centers nationwide.

Q: Does poison control come to my house and help with a poisoning or a snake in my yard?
A: 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 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. 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!

FLORIDA POISON CONTROL CENTERS

www.floridapoisoncontrol.org
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 (see list at right).
- 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 the 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 they ask before trying something new, a parent gets the 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.