



**Regional Center for Poison Control
and Prevention**

Serving Massachusetts and Rhode Island



HOME OR HOSPITAL?

HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS

24-HOUR POISON HOTLINE 1-800-222-1222

Supported in part by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the Rhode Island Department of Health, Project #H4BMC00050 from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health and Human Services, Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare of Massachusetts and member hospitals.



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Home or Hospital?

A 2 year-old boy drank a glassful of spiked punch 15 minutes ago. He is acting drunk. Can the child be treated at home, or will the specialist advise that he go to the hospital?

Alcohol in children can lower the blood sugar and cause coma. Key – the child is acting drunk so his blood sugar is dropping.

A 16-month-old girl swallowed three Poinsettia leaves 5 minutes ago. She is rubbing her mouth. Can the child be treated at home, or will the specialist advise that she go to the hospital?

Poinsettias are not poisonous to humans but may cause irritation from the sap.

A 1-year-old boy chewed up and swallowed one cigarette 10 minutes ago. He seems fine. Can the child be treated at home, or will the specialist advise that he go to the hospital?

Each cigarette contains 15-20 mg of nicotine. This amount can cause convulsions within 15 minutes.

An 18-month-old girl swallowed 1/2 teaspoon of Visine 2 minutes ago. The child seems fine. Can the child be treated at home, or will the specialist advise that she go to the hospital?

Visine can produce drowsiness even in adults. Any amount of Visine in children can depress breathing and vital functions.

Household Products

True or False: It is safe to use a combination of products with bleach and ammonia when cleaning.

Bleach + ammonia / acid (such as toilet bowl cleaner) = chloramine gas/chlorine which is irritating to your eyes, nose, and throat.

True or False: Mouthwash, aftershave lotions, and perfumes can be toxic if swallowed.

All contain alcohol.

Which of the following is toxic if swallowed: **antifreeze** or silica gel packets found in shoe boxes?

Silica gel is sterilized sand and is non-toxic, although it might cause dry mouth. Even small amounts of antifreeze are very poisonous.

What is a major source of lead poisoning for children?

Lead based paint dust and chips

(especially in homes built before 1978)

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MEDICINE

WILD CARD

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Medication

True or False: It is okay to take someone else's medication if you have the same medical condition.

Never take a medication that was not prescribed to you.

True or False: The warning section on an over-the-counter (OTC) drug label will tell you what medications, foods, and situations to avoid while taking the product.

Call the Poison Center if you have any questions regarding a product.

True or False: As long as a vitamin bottle has a child-resistant cap, it is safe to leave it on the table when children are around.

Children may be able to open the bottle regardless of whether it has a child-resistant cap.

True or False: Tylenol and Nyquil contain the same active pain relief medication.

The active ingredient for both of these products is acetaminophen.

Wild Card

True or False: A person who is poisoned will show symptoms immediately.

Some poisons do not act immediately but still are dangerous.

True or False: It is difficult to be poisoned by carbon monoxide if you are awake, because you can smell it.

Carbon monoxide is odorless and colorless, and the gas replaces the oxygen in our blood. Install a carbon monoxide detector in your home to monitor for this poisonous gas.

True or False: If someone swallows a poison, give the person egg whites to make him/her vomit.

Call the poison center right away. Forcing someone to vomit may make the situation worse.

True or False: Azalea, Lily-of-the-Valley, and Foxglove contain toxins that can cause poisoning if ingested.

These plants contain very dangerous poisons.

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