

Kitchen Poison Safety

Food, drinks and household cleaners are found in kitchens across the country – yet surprisingly Home Safety Council research shows that over half of families keep cleaners and chemicals in unlocked places. The American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) reports that 92 percent of all poison exposures occur in the home every year. To help reduce the risk to your family, adopt the following safety guidelines to handle and store poisons at home:



- Store all products in their original containers and in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

- Never transfer poisonous or caustic products to drinking glasses, pop bottles, or other food containers, which could be mistaken and the contents consumed.



- Homes with young children should have child locks installed on cabinets. Lock up all pesticides, cleaning products and other chemicals, all medications and medical supplies, and all other poisonous, toxic or caustic products.



- Purchase medications with child-resistant caps and make sure all dangerous products in the cabinets have child-resistant caps, including cleaning products and chemicals.



- Read the use and storage directions before using products. Original labels on product containers often give important first-aid information.
- When using harsh products follow safety recommendations, such as wearing gloves and masks. Do not mix products together because their contents could react together with dangerous results.



- Promptly put away products after use and wipe up spills immediately.



- If you purchase cleaning products or household chemicals that are packaged with labeling that includes images of food (for example citrus fruit in some cleaners), or that are packaged in containers that look similar to beverage bottles, be aware of the risk of these containers being mistaken for edible food products and ingested.



- Store all harmful products away from food to avoid mistaken consumption.



- Post the poison control hotline (1-800-222-1222) and other emergency numbers near every phone.

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