



A safe home is in your hands.



Poison Proof Your Home

Home Safety Council research shows that poisoning is the second leading cause of unintentional home injury fatality, resulting in one quarter of all home injury deaths on average each year.* Still more than half of families reported chemicals left unlocked and more than 80 percent of homes leave medicines unsecured.

“Every American home has potentially toxic products, including medications, pesticides and automotive fluids,” said Home Safety Council president Meri-K Appy. “While families with young children need to take extra precautions, poison hazards are a risk for every family member. Safe handling and storage of potentially dangerous products should be a standard practice at home.”

According to the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC), 92 percent of the 2.4 million poison exposures occur in the home. The Home Safety Council recommends these guidelines to prevent unintentional poisonings in your home:

Be Prepared

- Know to call 1.800.222.1222 if someone takes poison.
- This number will connect you to emergency help in your area.
- Keep this number by every phone.
- To prevent carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, have a service person check heaters, stoves and fireplaces every year to see that they work well.
- Have a carbon monoxide (CO) detector near the bedrooms. This will tell you if the gas level is too high. Push the “test” button on the detector so everyone will know the sound it makes.
- Know the things in your home that are poisons.
- Look at the labels for the words “Caution”, “Warning”, or “Danger” on the box or bottle. Read labels and follow directions when using these.

Protect Young Children

- Take all medicines and medical supplies out of purses, pockets and drawers.
- Put them in a cabinet with a child safety lock.
- Have child-safety caps on all chemicals, medications and cleaning products.
- Lock all dangerous items and products in a cabinet. Cosmetics (make-up) can be poison too.
- Keep all dangerous products in the bottle or package they came in, with the labels on.
- Store all dangerous products away from food and drinks.
- Keep each family member’s medicines in a separate place, so they don’t get mixed up.



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In the Bathroom

- Keep all chemicals, cosmetics (make-up), medicines and medical supplies, and cleaning products in the containers they came in with the labels on.
- Have a medicine cabinet you can lock.
- Flush old or unwanted medicines down the toilet.
- Only do this if the patient information instructs that it is safe to do so.
- To safely dispose of all other unused or expired prescription drugs, take the drugs out of their original containers, mix them with undesirable items (coffee grounds or kitty litter) and put them in watertight and unmarked containers, like empty cans or bags that can be sealed shut. Throw the containers in the trash. Make sure all medicines and prescriptions have not expired. If they have expired they should be flushed in the toilet and not thrown away in the garbage.

In the Garage and Storage Areas

- Chemicals, fuels (such as gasoline), car fluids (such as anti-freeze), pesticides (such as bug killers) and lawn and garden products (such as fertilizer) are poison.
- Close the lid and put all dangerous products away after using them.
- Store them where children cannot reach them.
- Close and put away dangerous products after using them.
- Clean up spills as they happen.

When Using Motors

- Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a deadly gas that you cannot see or smell. The gas collects when fuels are burned.
- Generators and motors need open air around them for safety.
- Never run a car inside the garage, even with the door open.
- Use portable generators outside only. Never use them inside your home or garage.
- Never run the car inside the garage, even with the door open.
- Use a barbeque grill outside only. Do not use it inside your home or garage.

Walk through the most common rooms where potentially harmful products are stored including the kitchen, bathrooms and garage. Learn more about roomy-by-room poison prevention by visiting www.homesafetycouncil.org.

**Through years 1996-2000, based on The State of Home Safety in America™ report, Second Edition.*