

CAREGIVER GUIDE

What is a poison?

A poison is a substance that can cause injury or death if it comes in contact with your body. Poisons come in all different shapes, sizes, and colors. Some poisons are even odorless and colorless. If you don't know what it is – stay away!

How can you be poisoned?

Poisons can enter the body several ways:

- Ingestion (eating or drinking something)
- Contact (splashing or spilling something on the skin or in the eyes)
- Inhalation (breathing dangerous fumes)
- Bites/stings from insects, snakes or spiders

How do accidental poisonings happen?

- Improper storage of poisons (ex. storing poisons where children can reach them)
- Improper use (ex. mixing household chemicals like bleach and ammonia or taking medication without reading the label)
- Children imitating adults

WHO ARE WE?

The **South Carolina Poison Center** is a non-profit organization dedicated to the prevention of poisonings and providing clinical advice to the general public and the health care community.

We serve all 46 counties of South Carolina, providing information and advice completely **free of charge**. We are staffed by nurses and pharmacists who are formally trained in toxicology and are specialists in providing poison information.

We are available **24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year**. Our calls range from accidental and intentional ingestion of poisonous substances to adverse drug reactions, snake and spider bites, and occupational or biochemical exposures.



CHILDREN AND POISON

Young children usually do not understand that they can poison themselves. Children under 5 are very curious about the things around them. All potential poisons should be kept up high and out of reach or under a lock and key.

Teach kids about poison prevention

- You cannot always tell a poison by the way it looks, smells, or tastes!
- Some medicine looks like candy. Always ask before you eat anything that is not given to you by an adult.
- Sometimes things that are poisonous smell good. Some types of cleaning products smell like apple, for example, but are very harmful if swallowed.
- You should not put plants in your mouth. You never know if they could be poisonous.
- Never put cosmetic-type products in your mouth. Examples are makeup, perfume, face cream.

Poison-proof your home

- Study our **Household Checklist** to familiarize yourself with potential poisons in the home.
- Locate all potential poisons and **store them** high and out of reach.
- Post the number for Poison Control in your home. **1-800-222-1222**





**SOUTH CAROLINA
POISON
CENTER**

1-800-222-1222

QUIZ: How much do you know about poison safety now?

- 1. The Poison Control Center provides free service:**
 - a. 24/7, 365 days a year
 - b. Monday-Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- 2. If someone has been poisoned, you should:**
 - a. Call 911
 - b. Call 1-800-222-1222
 - c. Drive straight to the emergency room
 - d. Make the person vomit immediately
- 3. The use of child resistant packaging always prevents accidental poisoning.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
- 4. Cleaning with one product is good, mixing two or more together is even better.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
- 5. Poison can enter the body through your eyes.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
- 6. Children love to imitate adults therefore we should not take medicine in front of them.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
- 7. The best place to store poisons and keep them away from children is ____.**
 - a. in the kitchen cabinet with a child safety lock
 - b. in the garage in plastic storage bins
 - c. up high and out of reach of children
- 8. You can always tell a poison by the way it looks or smells.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

