

Follow these guidelines to prevent poisoning in the home.

- Install safety locks/childproof latches on all cabinets to restrict access to children.
- Store potential poisons including detergents, medications, and chemical products (like pesticides and drain cleaners) out of reach and out of sight of children -- inside the house as well as in the garage or shed. In addition, it's always best to lock them up. Never underestimate your child's ability to climb.
- Store potential poisons in their original containers. Do not transfer them to food containers like milk jugs, coffee cans, or soda bottles.
- Keep food and potential poisons separate; store them in different cabinets. Children can mistake the identity of products that look alike to them.
- Return all products to storage immediately after use. Keep the products and your children in sight during use.
- Safely discard -- into a sealed, outdoor trash receptacle -- all household products and medications that are old or aren't used regularly.
- Never mix products; dangerous fumes could result.
- Make sure medications are in child-resistant containers. Vitamins and supplements also should be out of reach of children. Be especially alert at grandma's house. Older people with hand arthritis may get medication bottles that are not childproof. They're also more likely to leave medicine out in the open.
- Keep indoor plants out of reach; some may be poisonous.
- Stay away from areas that have been sprayed recently with pesticides or fertilizer.