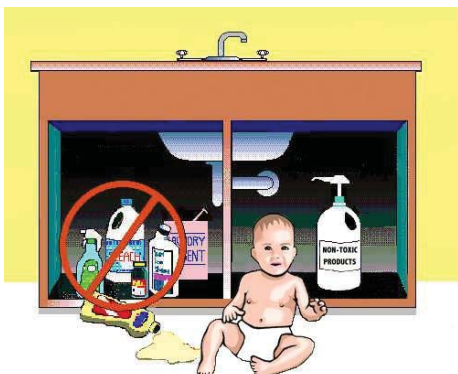


Pediatric Pesticide/Chemical Exposure



The holiday season is here! For many of us that means large meals, decorations, shopping and *family*. Unfortunately, it could also mean unintentional pediatric exposure to pesticides and chemicals. During the holidays, parents take their children to visit family they don't see on a regular basis. People who do not have children or whose children are grown, may not “baby-proof” their cabinets and drawers where pesticides and chemicals are stored. This could present an opportunity for exposure. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the most

dangerous potential poisons are medicines, cleaning products, antifreeze, windshield wiper fluid, pesticides, furniture polish, gasoline, kerosene and lamp oil. In addition, AAP stated that pediatric poisonings are most likely to occur when the parents or caregivers are distracted. The holidays are a busy time. Make sure you take the following steps to protect your children at home and while visiting family and friends.

To poison proof a home:

- Store medicine, cleaners, paints/varnishes and pesticides in their original packaging in locked cabinets or containers, out of sight and reach of children.
- Install a safety latch – that locks when you close the door – on child-accessible cabinets.
- Keep all medicines in containers with safety caps.
- Never refer to medicine as “candy” or another appealing name.
- Never place poisonous products in food or drink containers.
- Provide these reminders to family and friends before you visit their homes.



Treatment:



If your child is unconscious, not breathing, or having convulsions or seizures due to poison contact or ingestion, call 911 or your local emergency number immediately. If your child has come in contact with poison, and has mild or no symptoms, call your poison control center at 1-800-222-1222.

Resources:

American Academy of Pediatrics, <http://www.aap.org/>

American Association of Poison Control Centers, <http://www.aapcc.org/DNN/>

Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit, <http://www.aoec.org/pesu.htm>

Southwest Center for Pediatric Environmental Health, www.swcpeh.org