

The cleaning products, alcohol, medicines and vitamins we have in our homes are poisonous to children. Babies and toddlers are more at risk of poisoning as they tend to explore the world with their mouths. Children often imitate things they see adults doing, such as taking medications. Even older children are at risk of poisoning as they are risk takers.

Poisons Cabinet

Choose at least one “poisons cabinet” where you will keep poisons such as cleaning products, medicines, alcohol, tobacco, vapes and vape refills. Try to pick a cupboard that:

- Is at least 1.5m from the ground
- Has nothing underneath that a child could climb
- Has a child-proof latch fitted

Low storage areas, such as cupboards under the sink, may be more convenient but they are also easier for children to reach.

Choose strong, child-proof latches that children will not be able to open or broken. Latches that lock themselves when you close the cupboard are a good option to make sure that the cupboard isn't accidentally left unlocked or open.

Keep poisons in their original containers.

If medicines need to be refrigerated keep them in a sealed, child-resistant container in the highest point in the fridge.



Keep Out of Reach

Add washing powders and liquids to the washing machine and dishwasher immediately before use.

Stack and un-stack the dishwasher when children aren't around, and always keep the door closed and locked when they are. Dishwasher powder and tablets are very caustic and even a small amount can cause severe burns to the mouth, throat or eyes.

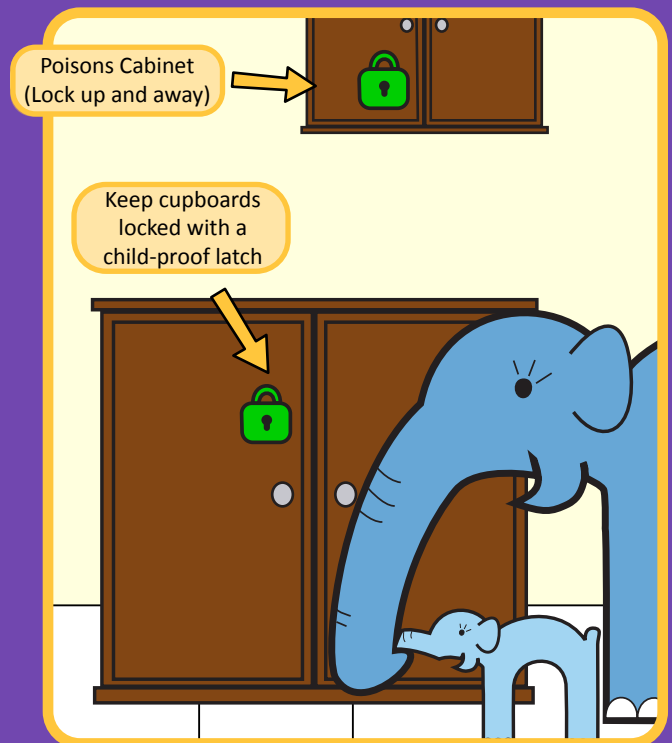
Provide a high hook or shelf for guests' bags when visiting to keep children from finding medicines and other poisons.

Make sure children can't access pet food, litter trays, or water bowls.

Store personal hygiene products and cosmetics up high.

Keep sheds, garages and other workspaces where chemicals, power tools and machinery are stored, locked at all times. Make sure children do not have access to the keys.

Check your garden for poisonous plants and remove any that pose a risk to children.



How Accidents can be Prevented

STEP 1 – Spot the hazards

Use this brochure and other Kidsafe resources to help you spot hazards in your home.

STEP 2 – Decide how to deal with the hazard.

When dealing with hazards remember that:

- 1. Removing the hazard** is the best option where possible (i.e. hand bags are kept up high and out of reach at all times)
- 2. Guard against the hazard** by installing and using gates and barriers (i.e. a safety gate at the laundry to restrict access)
- 3. Lock or block the hazard** by using safety products to restrict or remove access to the hazards (i.e. using a child-proof latch on the inside of a poisons cabinet)
- 4. Actively supervise within arms reach** when there are hazards you are unable to remove, guard or block against (i.e. when visiting other peoples houses)

Never depend on telling children not to do something.

STEP 3 – Make the changes

Once you have decided how to deal with the hazard, do it straight away. You will feel more relaxed and children will be able to play more safely.

Combine any barriers you put in place with adult supervision and education.

Poisons



For more information

Kidsafe ACT

Phone: (02) 6290 2244

Email: shop@kidsafeact.com.au

Website: www.kidsafeact.com.au

Facebook: facebook.com/KidsafeACT

Supported by



ACT
Government
Health



Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia



in the Australian Capital Territory

Poisons Information Number (24 hours) 131 126