

# poisons prevention checklist

1. Do you store medicines and other poisons in child-resistant cupboards/cabinets at least 1.5 metres above the ground?

yes  no

2. Do you always purchase medicines and other poisons in containers with child-resistant lids/caps?

yes  no

3. Do you re-place medicines and other poisons in child-resistant cupboards/cabinets immediately after use?

yes  no

4. Do you always keep medicines and other poisons in their original containers?

yes  no

5. Do you regularly return all old and unused medicines to your local pharmacist and dispose of all other poisons safely?

yes  no

6. In the backyard, do you always keep fertilisers, weed killers and petroleum products in a locked shed?

yes  no

If you have answered **NO** to any of the above questions then you need to act now to make your home **Poison Safe**.



## is your home poison safe?



Child poisoning can occur at anytime! But especially when your normal routine changes. For example medicines may be more accessible when someone is sick or when visiting grandparents who take medicines regularly.

Extra care is also required when on holidays, moving house, having visitors and during family problems.

**medicines** are the most **common cause** of **poisoning**

## poisons information centre

# 13 11 26



### KidsafeWA

Cnr Thomas St & Roberts Rd, SUBIACO WA 6008

Ph: (08) 9340 8509 Fx: (08) 9340 8041

Email: [kidsafe@kidsafewa.com.au](mailto:kidsafe@kidsafewa.com.au) Web: [www.kidsafewa.com.au](http://www.kidsafewa.com.au)

### Poisons Information Centre

Call 13 11 26 from anywhere in Australia,  
24 hours a day, 7 days a week



## how safe is your home?



# why children are at risk

Every year hundreds of children need medical care for poisoning from products commonly found around the home. Most accidental poisonings occur to children less than five years of age, with children aged one to three most at risk.

The most common product involved in poisoning cases is paracetamol (a common painkiller found in almost every household).



Between 1 to 3 years of age children begin to get skills that make them more mobile. This means potentially toxic products are more easily reached.

Young children are exploring their world and will put anything they can get into their hands into their mouths. At this age they are curious, but lack judgement and are unable to read.

They also like to imitate what others do, including taking medications.

**Check every room in your home for poisonous products – “it only takes a few minutes to check if you are inviting trouble”:**

- ❑ Store poisons in a locked cupboard preferably 1.5 metres above the ground (out of sight, out of reach – locked up and away).
- ❑ Store medicines separately from chemicals and cleaners but ensure both are locked away.

## what can I do to prevent poisoning?

- ❑ Use child resistant locks on cupboards or cabinets that store medicines and poisons. You can buy these at many hardware stores, or call Kidsafe WA on (08) 9340 8509 for more information.
- ❑ Don't store poisons near foods. Some children's medicines need to be kept in the refrigerator – use a small portable lockable container to enable these medicines to be stored safely.
- ❑ Return all poisons to their safe storage area **immediately** after you use or buy them. If you are using household products when the doorbell or phone rings take the product with you.



- ❑ Ask for and use products in child resistant containers and make sure the lids are on properly after use. However remember child resistant is **not** child proof – many two year olds can open them.
- ❑ Store all medicines, cleaners and chemicals in their **original** containers that are clearly labelled.
- ❑ Dispose of unwanted and out of date medicines. Contact your local pharmacy for advice.
- ❑ Never refer to medicines or vitamins as “lollies”.
- ❑ Before giving medicines always read the label.
- ❑ Keep your guests handbag out of reach of your child.
- ❑ Check that the plants in your garden are not poisonous. Ask your local nursery or visit [www.kidsafewa.com.au](http://www.kidsafewa.com.au) for a fact sheet.
- ❑ Always keep the Poisons Information Centre phone number 13 11 26 near your phone.



## what can be poisonous to children?

- ❑ All Medications; Over-the-counter and Prescription (eg. Paracetamol, Sedatives, Heart Pills, Iron Tablets and Contraceptive Pills)
- ❑ Drain Cleaners and Oven Cleaners
- ❑ Pesticides and Herbicides
- ❑ Dishwasher Powders
- ❑ Bleaches
- ❑ Alcohol (ie. Perfumes and Methylated Spirits)
- ❑ Shampoos, Soap and Detergents
- ❑ Cigarettes
- ❑ Many more common household substances