

# Poison Facts:

## What Kids Need to Know

---

### **What is a poison?**

A poison is something that makes you sick or hurts you if you eat, drink, touch or smell it. Poisons come in several forms.

- **Solids:** Examples of solid poisons are pills, batteries, plants and berries.
- **Liquids:** Liquid poisons can be creamy, gummy or watery. They can be any color. Some liquid poisons are floor cleaners, antifreeze for the car, cough syrup (if you take too much) and lamp oil.
- **Sprays:** Spray poisons can come in a spray can or bottle. The spray can get in your eyes or mouth, and in your lungs if you breathe it in. Some liquid sprays are furniture polish or bug spray.
- **Gases:** Poisonous gases are invisible. You can't see, smell or feel them. They can be found in almost any place where something is burning. An invisible poison could be mixed in with smoke or come out of the back of a car or bus when the engine is running.

### **What does a poison look like?**

A poison can come in pretty colors. It can come in many shapes and sizes. A poison can smell good. It can also taste good. A poison can even look like something that is good to eat or drink.

### **How can you get poisoned?**

You can get poisoned by eating, drinking, touching or smelling something that can make you sick or hurt you. Some things, like medicine, can make you sick if you take the wrong kind or if you take too much. Always ask a grownup before you take any medicine. Never put anything in your mouth if you are not sure that it is safe to eat. Ask a grownup first!

### **Where are poisons found?**

Poisons are everywhere. They can be found in your garage, kitchen, bathroom or any room in your house. They can even be found in your mother's or grandmother's purse. Poisons also can be found outside, like some plants, berries and mushrooms.

### **What can you do if someone gets poisoned?**

If you think you got into a poison, tell a grownup right away! They will call the Poison Control Center. The Poison Control Center will tell them how to help you. If you think your mom, dad, brother, sister, cousin or friend got into a poison, you can call the Poison Control Center. Tell a grownup to make sure you have the number of the Poison Control Center on or near the telephones in your house. You can also call 911 or the emergency number in your city or town for help.

### **How can you stay safe from poisons?**

- If you don't know what something is, do not touch it or put it in your mouth. Always ask a grownup first.
- Never take medicine unless a grownup gives it to you.
- Some plants and berries are poisonous. Don't put them in your mouth unless a grownup says it is all right.
- Always let grownups use spray cans and bottles. You should not touch them or play with them.
- Stay away from things used to clean your family's house, clothing or car.

---

**For more poison prevention and first aid information, call the**

Poison Control Center

Serving the Residents of Kansas

Toll-free Hotline

1-800-222-1222

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HOSPITAL

---

**KUMED**

---