

Poison Facts:

Seasonal Poisoning Hazards: Fall

Carbon monoxide

- Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, dangerous gas. It can be produced by vehicle exhaust leaks, improperly functioning furnaces, gas-fueled hot water heaters or wood stoves, or by burning charcoal indoors. It can also be produced by attempting to heat a home with a gas stove.
- Carbon monoxide poisoning causes flu-like symptoms, including headache, nausea, sleepiness and vomiting.
- If you suspect carbon monoxide exposure, **call the Poison Control Center immediately.**

Antifreeze

- Antifreeze tastes sweet. Children or pets may drink large amounts if it is left in an open container or spilled on the pavement.
- Most antifreeze contains ethylene glycol. If swallowed, this chemical can cause severe illness and may lead to death.
- Keep antifreeze products out of the reach of children.
- To make sure you know what it is, never pour antifreeze into another container.

Pesticides

- Always keep pesticides in their original containers, and store them out of the reach and sight of children.
- Read labels carefully, and follow directions for their use. Do not follow the label instructions for “What to do for poisonings.” This information may be old and possibly dangerous. In case of ingestion or other exposure, **call the Poison Control Center.**
- If pesticides get on the skin or in the eyes, rinse for 15 minutes with lukewarm water. **Then call the Poison Control Center.**

Fertilizers

- Many gardeners and homeowners use large amounts of fertilizer in the fall. Fertilizer dust and particles are irritating to the eyes. Flush the eye with water for 15 minutes if exposed.
- Keep children and pets out of the area when using fertilizer. If eaten, fertilizers can cause nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

Halloween

- Check all treats thoroughly before allowing children to eat them.
 - Keep treats away from pets. Some, such as chocolate, can be poisonous to pets.
 - Check wrappers for holes, tears and signs of rewrapping or tampering.
 - Throw away all unwrapped candy or fruits.
 - Be watchful of glow sticks and jewelry. If one breaks, avoid skin contact and swallowing of the liquid.
 - Keep facepainting materials out of the reach of small children. Avoid getting in eyes.
 - Dress children in light-colored clothing, short enough to prevent tripping. Apply reflective tape for added safety.
 - Make sure children can see well enough through facemasks to prevent falls and to stay away from moving vehicles. Better yet, use makeup instead.
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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

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