Spring Cleaning and Poison Prevention Go Hand in Hand

At this time of year, many of us are thinking about spring cleaning our homes. As part of your spring cleaning routine, why not keep poison prevention in mind? In 2007, the Utah Poison Control Center (UPCC) received over 50,000 calls regarding poisons. Of all poison exposure calls received, 86% occurred in the home. When spring cleaning each of the following areas of your house, take this checklist along and make your home safe from poisonings.

**Kitchen:**
- □ Store cleaners, medicine, and vitamins/herbals in their original containers, on a high shelf, out of sight, and away from food products. Note: While cleaning, if the phone or doorbell rings, take the product with you.
- □ Put safety latches on all drawers and cabinets where harmful products are stored.

**Bedroom:**
- □ Remove all medicines from dressers and side tables.
- □ Check that all perfume, cosmetics, and powders are out of reach.
- □ Store all jewelry where children cannot reach.

**Bathroom:**
- □ Potentially harmful products should be stored on a high shelf with safety latches or locks on them.
- □ Be aware of these products: mouthwash, hair products, talcum powder, cleaners, cosmetics, drain clearing products, aftershave, fluoride rinses, and nail products.

**Laundry:**
- □ Keep all products in original containers.
- □ Store bleach, stain removers, detergents, and fabric softener out of reach and in a locked cabinet.

**Garage/Basement/Storage Area:**
- □ Keep all products in original containers
- □ Secure insect spray, weed killer and other gardening products, turpentine, car care products, and other potentially harmful substances in locked storage.
- □ To dispose of chemicals, contact your city for information on proper procedures.