

POISON ANTIDOTE



Utah Poison Control Center

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1-800-222-1222



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Spray Bottle Hazard

Poisoning from household cleaners is a common reason why parents and caregivers call the Utah Poison Control Center. A recent study published in the *Journal of Pediatrics* found that when a child is poisoned by a household cleaner, the most common source or container is a spray bottle. Why are spray bottles such a problem? There may be several reasons:

- The cleaner is left out and within reach of children.
- The color, scent and bright packaging draw children to the product.
- Young children are inquisitive and readily explore their environment.
- It is relatively easy to use a spray bottle mechanism. Even very young children are able to engage the trigger.
- Children receive a mixed message when they are allowed to spray water from a bottle in order to cool them down on a hot summer day or to squirt in the mouth for a drink. Later when faced with a spray bottle that contains cleaner, they are unable to discern the difference.

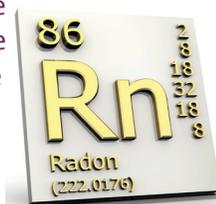


To protect children from hazards associated with household cleaners in spray bottles, keep all cleaners locked up and out of the reach of children. While some spray bottle nozzles can be turned to an off position, this does not render them child proof. If a poisoning occurs call Utah Poison Control at 1-800-222-1222. Services are free and confidential.

Resource: *Pediatrics* September 2010

Radon Risk

Since the recent earthquake in Japan, radiation risk has been on many peoples' minds. While the risk here in Utah from exposure to nuclear power radiation is extremely unlikely, naturally occurring radon can pose a threat. It is the single most radioactive hazard to the American public, and Utah has some of the highest levels in the nation. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. There are no short term health effects from radon exposure.



What is Radon?

Radon is a colorless, odorless, and radioactive gas. It is produced naturally, deep within the earth and is found in the soil. The gas rises to the surface and can seep into homes through cracks in the foundation or other common openings. The problem arises when radon is trapped inside dwellings and builds up over time.

How do I know if I am at Risk?

The first step is to find out if the home you live in has elevated radon levels. Inexpensive testing kits are available. Visit the Utah Safety Council website for more information on radon and testing kits. http://www.utahsafetycouncil.org/safety_resources/radon.asp

What do I do if a Problem is Found?

If hazardous levels are found through testing, radon problems can be fixed. It is not as costly as you may think to remedy the situation. Usually for about the cost of a new hot water heater, a contractor can fix the problem and make the home safer. For further information visit the EPA website. <http://www.epa.gov/radon/pubs/citguide.html>

Resources: Utah Safety Council; US Environmental Protection Agency; Adam Wolfe, PharmD (personal communication)



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