



# POISON ANTIDOTE



## Utah Poison Control Center

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1-800-222-1222



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### National Poison Prevention Week March 20-26, 2011

This year marks the 49th anniversary of Poison Prevention Week. The third week in March was officially designated by President Kennedy in 1961 as a time to raise public awareness about the poison problem in the United States. Poison Prevention Week is an opportunity to get involved in spreading the poison prevention message. Help us in observing this important week by visiting our website to access resources that can be used to prevent poisonings in the home and community. Also, learn how to get free poison prevention tips to your cell phone via text messaging!

[www.utahpoisoncontrol.org](http://www.utahpoisoncontrol.org)

### Winter Warning

Winter can pose some unique poison hazards. Products such as **antifreeze, salt (or other ice melt products), windshield washer fluid and lamp/lantern oil** are used more frequently in the colder months of the year. To prevent a poisoning they should be locked up and kept out of the reach of children. Keep these products in the original containers, and use them with caution.

**Carbon Monoxide (CO):** CO poisoning is another danger that is more common in winter months. CO is an odorless, tasteless gas. Exposure to CO can cause headache, fatigue, nausea, dizziness, irregular breathing, mental confusion, unconsciousness, and ultimately death. To prevent CO poisoning:

- Install a CO detector near sleeping areas
- Never operate gas burning appliances, machines, or equipment in an enclosed space (garage, tent, indoor spaces)
- Have chimney and flue cleaned professionally
- Have furnace inspected annually



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If you suspect a poisoning call the Utah Poison Control Center 1-800-222-1222. Poison specialists are available 24 hours a day 7 days a week with free, confidential poison help.

Resource: HRSA

### Button Batteries...Hidden Hazards

Button battery ingestions are on the rise among children. About 3500 cases of button battery ingestions are reported to poison control centers each year. These small coin shaped batteries are found more and more often in commonly used items such as; remote control devices, games, greeting cards, books, thermometers, toys, cameras, calculators, toothbrushes, lighted shoes, scales and watches. Most button batteries pass through the body without incident, but when the battery becomes lodged in the esophagus, it poses a significant problem. The chemical reaction that is triggered by the battery can cause serious complications and even death. Severe damage can be caused in as little as 2 hours after ingestion. The larger 20-mm disk batteries are especially dangerous. The size makes them more likely to get stuck in the throat than smaller size button batteries. According to a recent study, 62% of children that ingested a battery accessed it directly from the product or device. Loose/discarded batteries accounted for 30%, while 8% of the children accessed the battery from the original packaging. Preventing battery ingestion is the best way to avoid the problem. The following suggestions will help prevent this type of poisoning:

- Secure battery compartments of all household products by taping them tightly shut and keeping them out of the reach of small children
- Store batteries out of the reach and sight of children
- Never leave loose batteries sitting out (even used batteries that are not strong enough to power a device, can still cause harm)
- Do not allow children to play with batteries

If a battery is swallowed, call the poison control center immediately for help 1-800-222-1222

Resources: Pediatrics Vol 125 Num 6, June 2010  
[www.poison.org/battery](http://www.poison.org/battery)



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