

Poison Antidote



Protect Against Bites & Stings

Spring and summer months bring many people outside to enjoy the warm weather. Critters such as bees, wasps, spiders, snakes, mosquitos, and ticks also come out in greater numbers during these months. Many people do not realize that the poison center frequently receives calls for bites and stings at this time of year. Poison center specialists are skilled at managing these calls and can help right away. Utah Poison Control Center (UPCC) recently developed the "Bites & Stings" guide that provides tips to prevent a bite or sting as well as first aid in the event that someone experiences a bite or sting. Visit the UPCC website and download the "Bites & Stings" guide today: <http://poisoncontrol.utah.edu/publiced/materials.php>



Utah Poison Control Center

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UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
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Be Safe: Trust the Experts

In an emergency, would you trust the first aid instructions on a bottle of cleaner or a bag of fertilizer? It may seem like a good idea, but doing so could actually lead to more trouble. Recent research published in the *Journal of Community Health* found that the first aid directions on a variety of household products, including bathroom cleaners, pesticides, laundry soap, fertilizer, and polishes, are inconsistent, incomplete, and sometimes not included at all. More than 90% of all products analyzed in the study did not list first aid instructions for all of the ways that a poison can get into or on the body. Since treatment is different when a poison gets into the eye, is swallowed, gets on the skin, or is inhaled, this can pose a problem. Findings also showed that 25% of first aid instructions were hard to find because they were on the bottom of the container, behind the label, or could not be found at all because they were completely missing. And what did the labels list for whom to call for help? Only 39% listed the poison center, and of those that did, only 1% included the poison center phone number.

In an emergency, looking for instructions on product labels can waste precious time—and even worse, the instructions may not be correct. It is safer to trust the experts at your poison center if you think someone has been poisoned, rather than rely on the product label for help. The specialists at the poison center are available 24/7/365 by calling 1-800-222-1222, and they can quickly determine the best course of action. It is free and confidential! Have the bottle or container with you, if possible, when you call.

www.utahpoisoncontrol.org

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