

Poison Antidote



A Warning about Food Grade Hydrogen Peroxide

Hydrogen peroxide is a common household product usually found in the medicine cabinet that is mainly used to disinfect wounds. It typically contains 3% hydrogen peroxide and 97% water. This product is safe if used correctly. However, there is a concentrated form on the market called food grade hydrogen peroxide that can be very dangerous. It is intended for cleaning produce and other food products and contains up to 35% hydrogen peroxide. Many online sources claim that food grade hydrogen peroxide can be used to cure such things as HIV, AIDS, cancer, and multiple sclerosis. There is no scientific evidence to back these claims, and the FDA warns people not to purchase or consume this product.

The Dangers

- Concentrated food grade hydrogen peroxide can cause severe burns and tissue damage to skin, eyes, and other body tissue it comes in contact with.
- Some online sources recommend storing food grade hydrogen peroxide in the refrigerator. This can be very dangerous since it may be mistaken for water and ingested.
- Food grade hydrogen peroxide can cause serious injury or even death when swallowed.
- Food grade hydrogen peroxide reacts with stomach acid to create air bubbles that can lodge in the liver or move further up to the brain and cause a stroke.

Safety Tips

- If you currently have food grade hydrogen peroxide in your home, use extreme caution and keep it out of the reach of children. Don't store it in the refrigerator where it may be mistaken for a drink.
- You should also consider getting rid of any food grade hydrogen peroxide you may have because of the high poisoning risk.
- If you have questions or suspect a poisoning, call the Utah Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222.

Resources: Illinois Poison Control Center, FDA



What Winter Poison Dangers Lurk in the Garage?

There are many winter products typically stored in the garage that are common poison risks this time of year. The following information may help you identify these poison risks and take steps to protect yourself and your family.

Antifreeze and Windshield Washer Fluid

With increased use in vehicles, antifreeze and windshield washer fluid poisonings rise during the winter. Some people store these products in small containers such as soda bottles or cups for ease in use. This is a dangerous practice. Keep these liquids in their original container so they will not be mistaken for a beverage. Ensure that the caps are tightly closed on antifreeze and windshield washer fluid containers to avoid spills. This helps protect kids and pets from consuming spilled liquid. Store these products up and out of reach.

Salt

Salt is used to melt ice and snow on walkways during winter months and is also found in various ice-melt products. If these granules are consumed in large amounts, they can be harmful. If the product gets on the skin or in the eyes it can also cause irritation. Keep salt products up and away from children and pets at all times.

Pesticides

Pesticides are used year-round. However, with cooler outside temperatures, more pests may come inside, so indoor pesticide use rises. Pesticides should be used with caution, and directions should be followed carefully. Many poisonings occur when the product is being used incorrectly; for instance, don't use outdoor garden products indoors. Monitor others around you when using chemicals, and never leave the product unattended—not even for a few seconds. Put pesticides up and out of reach when not in use and store them in their original containers.

Resources: Connecticut Poison Control Center, National Capital Poison Center, EPA

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National Poison Prevention Week March 20-26, 2016

Poisoning is the number one cause of unintentional injury death in the United States, yet it is preventable. National Poison Prevention Week brings awareness to poison dangers and provides an opportunity to spread poison prevention information. Join Utah Poison Control Center (UPCC) in recognizing this important week by visiting www.utahpoisoncontrol.org to download lesson plans, sign up to receive newsletters, and order prevention materials to distribute in your area. Connect with UPCC on Facebook and Twitter, and be poison safe!