

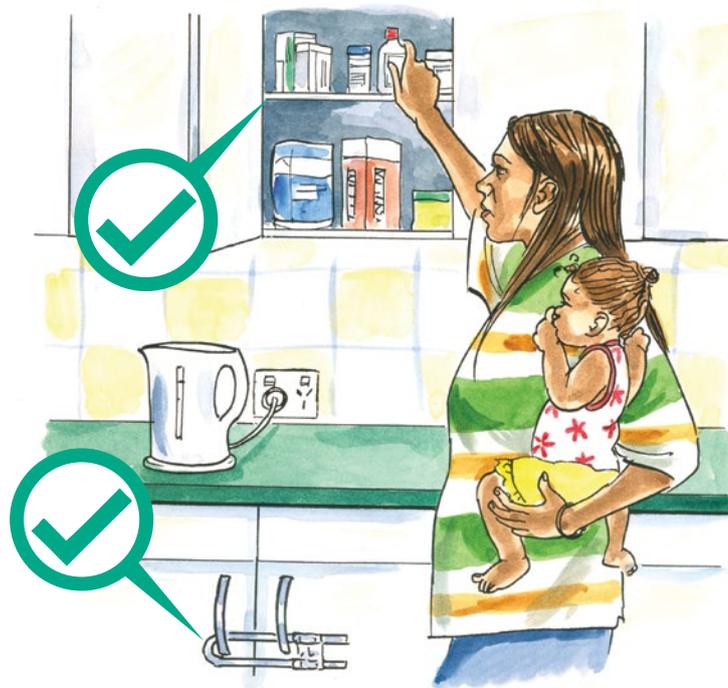
POISONING

Lock away poisons – up high and out of reach

Why? Young children put everything in their mouth. They don't understand it could be dangerous.

Most children are poisoned from swallowing medicines and cleaning products around the home.

- ✔ Lock away all poisons, medicines and dangerous items in a cupboard up high, at least 1.5 metres above ground level, out of sight and reach of children.



Safe storage

- ✔ Make sure low cupboards and drawers have a lock on them.

Why? Many cleaning products are stored in low cupboards under the sink or dishwasher. Think about how easily children can get to your cupboards and drawers.

POISONING

✘ Don't leave bags around where young children can get into them.

Why? They might find medicines, hand sanitiser or other small items which they can put in their mouth.



Check what plants you have at home and get rid of any dangerous ones.

✔ Teach your children that gardening is fun but not all plants in the garden are for eating.

POISONING

What to do if something happens



If your child has swallowed something you think might be poisonous:

- Never try to make them vomit.
- Take your child and the product to the phone with you; ring the

POISONS INFORMATION CENTRE

on **13 11 26** and follow their advice.

Children can sometimes be poisoned after being given too much medicine.



- ✓ Read instructions carefully and record when and how much medicine you give them to reduce the chance of overdose.

Safety checklist to prevent poisoning

- Do you store medicines and cleaning products out of reach at least 1.5 metres off the ground?
- Do you always check the recommended dosage when giving medication to children, even if you have given it before?
- Do you use child resistant locks on cupboards where poisonous products are stored?
- Are all products stored in their original, clearly labelled container?
- Do you buy products with child resistant lids? Remember child resistant is not child-proof – many toddlers can open them given time.
- Are medicines in the fridge kept in a small, portable and lockable container?
- Have you reminded grandparents and other carers about storing medicines safely when children are around?
- Do you ensure handbags and other bags are kept out of reach, particularly visitors' bags?
- Do you make sure you never refer to medications as 'lollies' or 'sweets' as this gives children false ideas?
- Have you checked the plants in your garden are not dangerous?
- Have you entered the phone number of the Poisons Information Centre into your mobile phone? **13 11 26**

For more information, contact:
Kidsafe Victoria

www.kidsafevic.com.au



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This resource was originally developed by Kidsafe SA

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