



Poison Prevention Checklist

The home is the most common site of accidental poisonings. If you answer “No” to any of these questions, repair the situation quickly. Your goal is to have all “Yes” answers.

Kitchen

1. Do all harmful products in the cabinets have child resistant caps? Yes ___ No ___
Products such as furniture polishes, drain cleaners and some oven cleaners should have safety packaging to keep children from accidentally opening the packages.
2. Are all potentially harmful products in their original containers? Yes ___ No ___
Labels on the original containers often give first aid information if someone should swallow the product. Also, if products are stored in containers such as drinking glasses or soft drink bottles, someone may think it is edible and swallow it.
3. Are harmful products stored away from food? Yes ___ No ___
If harmful products are placed next to food, someone may accidentally get a food and a poison mixed up. Poison can also contaminate the food.
4. Have all potentially harmful products been put up high and out of reach of children? Yes ___ No ___
The best way to prevent poisoning is to make sure it’s impossible to find and get to the poisons. Locking all cabinets that hold dangerous products is the best poison prevention.

Bathroom

1. Did you ever stop to think that medicines could be poisonous if used improperly? Yes ___ No ___
Many children are poisoned each year by overdoses of prescription medicines.
2. Do your aspirins and other potentially harmful products have child-resistant closures? Yes ___ No ___
Aspirins and most prescription medications come with child-resistant caps. Make sure yours have them and that they are properly secured.
3. Have you thrown out all out-of-date prescriptions? Yes ___ No ___
As medicines get older, the chemicals inside them can change. What was once a helpful medicine may now be a dangerous poison. Discard medications safely. To learn how, read the Dispose of Medications Safely fact sheet at www.guilfordcountync.gov and click on Health Info A-Z.
4. Are all medicines in their original containers with the original labels? Yes ___ No ___
Prescription medicines may or may not list ingredients. Without the original label and container, you can’t be sure what you are taking.

5. If your vitamins or vitamin/mineral supplements contain iron, are they in child-resistant packaging? Yes ___ No ___

Most people think of vitamins and minerals as food and nontoxic, but a few iron pills can kill a child.

Garage or Storage Area

1. Did you know that many items in your garage or storage area that can be swallowed are dangerous poisons? Yes ___ No ___

Death may occur when people swallow such substances as charcoal lighter, paint thinner, paint chips and remover, antifreeze and turpentine.

2. Do all these poisons have child-resistant packaging? Yes ___ No ___

3. Are they stored in the original containers? Yes ___ No ___

4. Are the original labels on the containers? Yes ___ No ___

5. Have you made sure that no poisons are stored in drinking glasses or soft drink bottles? Yes ___ No ___

6. Are all these harmful products locked up and out of sight and reach? Yes ___ No ___

7. Is lead poisoning harmful to your health? Yes ___ No ___

Lead can cause damage to the brain and nervous system, slowed growth and development, learning and behavior problems and hearing or speech problems for children. Severe and permanent injury from continued exposure can harm unborn babies and cause difficulties for pregnant mothers.

8. Do you know where lead is found? Yes ___ No ___

Lead is found in old paint, gasoline, solder, air, food, water, dust and soil.

9. Do you know how to protect your family from lead poisoning? Yes ___ No ___

Test your home for lead if it was built before 1978. Have your child wash his hands often.

Wash toys and stuffed animals regularly. Regularly mop floors, wipe window ledges and chewable surfaces with all purpose cleaner or dishwasher detergent and warm water.

Get your child tested - free blood lead screening is available for children less than six years old at the Guilford County Public Health.

For more information, contact Guilford County Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Division at 641-7777 or www.guilfordcountync.gov/our-county/human-services/health-department.

For more information about a product or to report a dangerous product, contact the Consumer Product Safety Commission at 1-800-638-8270 or www.cpsc.org or the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead

Free language assistance is available upon request.