

# #10 - POISON PATROL

**“Do not touch, do not taste, and do not smell.”**

*The effect thereof is poison.  
Mosiah 7:30*

**DID YOU KNOW:** Children are naturally attracted to colorful household products, many of which are poisonous but look like candy, soft drinks or other harmless substances.

Each year, the Idaho Poison Center receives more than 16,000 calls related to human poisonings. More than half of these calls are for poisonings among children less than six years old; one- and two-year olds are at the greatest risk. The most common causes of poisoning are medicines and household products, many of which look like candy, soft drinks, or other harmless substances. Medicines that are brought into homes in the pockets and purses of visiting adults are also a significant cause of childhood poisonings.

**PURPOSE:** Poison safety at home.

**PREPARATION:** OFFICER UGG, The poison safety officer, has been developed as one symbol parents can use to help young children understand poison safety. To request OFFICER UGG stickers, you can write the Regional Poison Control Center, University of California, Davis medical Center, 2315 Stockton Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95817, or call 1-916-734-3414.

**LESSON:** Go on a POISON PATROL around your kitchen, bathroom, laundry, and garage area. Post the Poison Control Center telephone number by your phone.

## POISON PATROL - Taking a safety tour

When you are poison proofing your home, or taking a safety tour with young children, consider the following checklist of things to be concerned about. While this is not an exhaustive list, it's a good starting point.

- Point out products that are not to be touched, tasted, or smelled.
- If you have poison control stickers, introduce the character on the sticker. Let your children place a sticker on substances that you choose and explain why the substance is harmful. The sticker is there to remind them “Do not touch, do not taste, and do not smell.”
- It can be especially useful when talking with children to ask them to point out poisons. Use this list to get things rolling.

KITCHEN • dish washing detergent • liquid dish soap	• scouring soap • window cleaner • oven cleaner • medicines • vitamins • furniture polish • drain cleaner/opener • ammonia	GARAGE • gasoline • kerosene • car wax/soaps • weed killers/pesticides • paint • windshield washer fluid • antifreeze
LAUNDRY ROOM • laundry detergent • bleach • fabric softener • dye	CLOSET/STORAGE	
MISCELLANEOUS • flaking paint • broken plaster	BATHROOM • cosmetic products • shampoo • medications • cleansers • lotions • perfume	
PURSE • medicines/pain killers • cosmetics		

## Ten Poison Prevention Tips

1. Keep medicines, vitamins and household cleaning products, even those with safety caps out of sight, out of reach and preferably locked up.

2. Always store pesticides out of children's reach, in a locked cabinet or storage shed.
3. Before applying pesticides remove children and pets (and their toys) from the area and keep them away until it is dry or as recommended on the label.
4. Keep items in their original containers and read the label before using.
5. Refer to medicine as "medicine" and not as candy.
6. Do not take medicine in front of children. They often imitate adult behavior.
7. Remember to place purses or jackets containing medications out of children's reach.
8. Keep a one ounce bottle of Ipecac Syrup in you home. Use it only if told to do so by the Poison Center or you doctor. Ipecac induces vomiting to help clear the system of poison.
9. Keep the telephone numbers of the Poison Center and local hospital readily available.
10. If your child swallows a substance that is NOT food, call the Idaho Poison Center at 1-800-860-0620.

### **What you should do if someone is poisoned**

First and for most, remain calm.

Then locate and telephone a Poison Prevention Center as soon as possible.

For the call, have ready:

- the age of the patient
- your name and telephone number
- the name of the product and the ingredients
- amount of the poison involved
- the time the poisoning occurred
- any symptoms present in the victim

If you are instructed to go to the hospital or another emergency facility, always bring the original container of the suspected substance with you!

### **Types of poisoning incidents & possible responses**

- **Poison on the skin**  
Remove all contaminated clothing and flood the skin with water for 10 minutes. Then, wash the affected area gently with soap and water and rinse thoroughly.
- **Poison in the eye**  
Flood the eye with lukewarm (not hot) water poured from a large glass 2 to 3 inches from the eye. Repeat for 15 minutes. Have the patient blink as much as possible while flooding the eye. Do not force the eyelid open.
- **Poison by inhalation**  
Immediately get the person to fresh air. Avoid breathing fumes. Open all doors and windows wide. If victim is not breathing, then start artificial respiration.
- **Poison by swallowing**  
Medicine: Do not give anything by mouth until calling for advice.  
Chemical or Household Products: Unless the patient is unconscious, having convulsions, or cannot swallow -- give milk or water immediately. Then call for professional advice about whether you should make the patient vomit or not.

Always keep on hand at home a one ounce bottle of [syrup of ipecac](#) for each child in the home. Use only on advice of a [poison control center](#), emergency department, or physicians.

Remember, stay calm, and seek professional help as soon as possible.