

Ministry of Health



Chemistry/Food & Drugs Division Pesticides & Toxic Chemicals Control Board

TIPS TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM PESTICIDE POISONING

These simple steps can help you save children from pesticide poisoning around the home:

1. Always store pesticides and other household chemicals, including chlorine bleach, out of children's reach - preferably in a locked cabinet. Installing childproof safety latches or padlocks on cupboards and cabinets is a good idea.
2. Always read directions carefully because pesticide products, household cleaning products and pet products can be "dangerous" or ineffective if too much or too little is used.
3. Before applying pesticides or other household chemicals, remove children and then toys, as well as pets, from the area. Keep children and pets away until the pesticide has dried or as long as is recommended on the label.
4. If your use of a pesticide or other household chemical is interrupted (perhaps by a phone call), properly reclose the container and remove it from children's reach. Always use household products in child resistant packaging.
5. Never remove labels from containers and never transfer pesticides to other containers that children may associate with food or drink (like sweet drink bottles), and never place rodent or insect baits where small children can get to them, pick them up, and put them in their mouths.
6. When applying insect repellents to children, read all directions first; do not apply over cuts, wounds or irritated skin; do not apply to eyes, mouth, hands or directly on the face; and use just enough to cover exposed skin or clothing, but do not use under clothing
7. Make sure you close any container marked "child resistant" very tightly after you use the product. Check periodically to make sure that the product is securely closed. Child resistant does not mean child proof, so you should still be careful with products that are sold in child resistant packaging.
8. Make sure others - especially babysitters, grandparents and other caregivers, know about the potential hazards of pesticides.
9. Teach children that "pesticides are poisons", something that they should never touch or eat.
10. Keep the telephone number of your doctor or hospital facility near each phone. Have the pesticide container handy when you call.