



Safe Kids Sonoma County
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Protect Against Home Hazards – Store Poisonous Goods Safely

Safe Kids Promotes National Poison Prevention Week March 15-21

Sonoma County — It is natural to let children explore their surroundings, unless they're getting under the kitchen sink or into the medicine cabinet where hazardous chemicals and adult medicines are kept. As National Poison Prevention Week (March 15-21) approaches, Safe Kids Sonoma County reminds parents to make sure they store hazardous materials – such as cleaning products or medication – out of their children's reach.

Each year, unintentional poisoning is the cause of death for approximately 100 children ages 14 years and under and poison control centers in the United States receive 1.2 million calls as a result of accidental poisoning of children ages 5 and under. Nearly 90 percent of these toxic exposures occur in the home, and 56 percent involve non-pharmaceutical products such as cosmetics, cleansers, personal care products, plants, pesticides, art supplies, alcohol and toys.

Safe Kids Sonoma County reminds parents that the toll-free poison control center number is: **1-800-222-1222**. This number connects you to your local poison control center from anywhere in the United States. You can keep it in your cell phone and post near your home phone for emergencies.

Safe Kids Sonoma County offers these additional tips:

- Lock up potential poisons out of sight and reach of kids. This includes makeup, medicine, plants, cleaning products, pesticides, art supplies, and beer, wine and liquor.
- Never leave kids alone with an open container of something you wouldn't want them to ingest. A child can be poisoned in a matter of seconds.
- Don't refer to medicine or vitamins as candy and don't involve children as helpers with your medication.
- Choose medicines and products that have child-resistant caps. When you are giving medicine to your children, follow dosage directions carefully.
- Keep products in their original containers. Read labels to learn if a product is poisonous and for first aid information.
- If your home was built before 1978, test for lead-based paint and get your child tested for lead exposure. Children inhale the dust of lead-based paint and can build up enough lead in their blood to affect intelligence, growth and development.
- Install a carbon monoxide alarm outside every sleeping area and on every level of your home. Carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless gas that builds up around fuel-burning appliances and cars in garages. It can make a child seriously ill in concentrations that would barely affect an adult.
- Know which plants in and around your home can be poisonous.
- Discuss these precautions with grandparents and caregivers. They may have medications that can be very dangerous to children and their homes might not be as well childproofed as yours.

For more information about poison prevention, visit www.safekidssonomacounty.org or call Safe Kids Sonoma County Coordinator Marsha Rozell at (707)525-5300 ext. 3332. Safe Kids Sonoma County works to prevent accidental childhood injury, the leading killer of children 14 and under. Safe Kids Sonoma County is a member of Safe Kids Worldwide, a global network of organizations dedicated to preventing accidental injury and a member of the Poison Prevention Week Council (www.poisonprevention.org).

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