

# Prepare & Prevent

A room-by-room guide to help prevent unintentional poisonings in the home.

About **90,000** children are seen in emergency departments each year due to unintentional poison exposures. Think outside of the box—beyond the medicine and kitchen cabinets—when it comes to poison prevention.

## Kitchen and Bath

Think “On Tight and Out of Sight.”

Most poisonings in the home are associated with commonly used medicines and household cleaners.

- Keep **medicines and household cleaners** in original child-resistant packaging. Re-secure lids after each use.
- Place medicines and household chemicals up high and out of sight.
- When high storage is not an option, store medicines and household chemicals in locked or latched cabinets with child-resistant locks/latches.



## Bedrooms, Living & Family Rooms

Coin Cell-Size Danger.

In addition to a choking hazard, a swallowed coin cell battery in the throat can release hydroxide in as little as two hours, resulting in dangerous chemical burns.

- Keep remotes, keyless entry controls, gaming devices and other small electronics with small, **coin cell-size batteries** out of a child’s reach.
- Use tape to help secure a battery compartment that does not have a screw.
- Keep spare batteries out of the reach of children.



## Laundry Room

A New Product Brings New Hazards.

Single-load laundry packets look like candy or a teething ring, but they can be poisonous.

- Store all laundry products up high and out of sight.
- Leave laundry products, such as highly concentrated **single-load laundry packets**, sealed in their original packaging.



## Basement, Garage, Attic

Be on the Lookout for the “Invisible Killer.”

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas and if you have fuel-burning appliances, a car and/or a portable generator, take note.

- Install **CO alarms** in the hallway near bedrooms/sleeping areas. Test alarms frequently and replace dead batteries.
- Have heating system inspected and serviced annually by a trained service technician.
- Operate portable generators outdoors and 20 feet away from open doors, windows and vents.

