

POISONology

SAFETY & FIRST AID TIPS FROM THE ARIZONA POISON AND DRUG INFORMATION CENTER

Poisonous Pods: Highly concentrated packets of laundry detergent



If you use highly concentrated liquid laundry detergent that comes in small packets, you'll want to heed this warning from the experts at America's 57 poison centers: **Always keep them locked up high and out of the reach of kids!**

These new laundry packets dissolve in the washing machine. Because they are colorful and squishy, they are attractive to children. They can look like candy or something fun to play with. **But some young children who have put these small packets into their mouths and swallowed some of the detergent have become very ill and have been hospitalized.** Others have gotten it into their eyes, causing severe irritation.

Poison centers receive many calls each year about children getting into laundry detergent. Usually, swallowing laundry detergent causes mild stomach upset or even no symptoms. Poison center experts say the new laundry packets seem to be different. Some children exposed to them experience excessive vomiting, wheezing and gasping. Some get very sleepy. Some even have had trouble breathing and have needed a ventilator to help them breathe.

The experts at the poison center urge parents and caregivers to:

- Always keep detergents locked up, high, and out of reach of children.
- Follow instructions on the product label.
- Call the poison center at 1-800-222-1222 **immediately** if you think a child has been exposed to a packet of highly concentrated liquid laundry detergent.

If you have other poisoning concerns or questions call the toll free national hotline at 1-800-222-1222 to reach your local poison center. If you live in Arizona outside of Maricopa County, this number will get you to our experts at the Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center in Tucson.