

JUNE 2025

THE POISON PREVENTION SCRIPT

Household Cleaners: Safe Use & Poisoning Prevention

Household cleaning products were the #1 child poisoning reported to our center in 2024. Do you know how to use them safely?

While household cleaning products are generally safe to use in and around your home, anything safe can become a poison in the right amount.

Read on to learn some safety tips for using cleaning products in order to prevent a poisoning, whether it be for you, your loved ones, or pets!



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ARIZONA
Poison and Drug
Information Center



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Household Cleaners: Safe Use & Poisoning Prevention

Most homes contain more than *100 products* that can be harmful if you taste, breathe, or touch them.

That's why it is important to practice safe use when using household products, whether it be cleaners, pesticides, detergents, and more. Here's how you can prevent a poisoning when using household cleaning products:

Put products away immediately after use.

Leaving out products like disinfectants, glass cleaners, and bleaches poses a risk of the product getting into the wrong hands or even spilling, which could lead to skin reactions or the inhalation of fumes.

Keep household products up, locked, and out of reach.

Keeping cleaners in an unlocked cabinet under the sink is unfortunately not enough to ensure safety. Aim to keep cleaners in a high, locked cabinet or shelf that children cannot easily access.

Remember that "child-resistant" does not always mean "child proof"!

Keep household products in their original packaging.

It may be tempting to put those disinfectant sprays and laundry detergents in those pretty glass reusable containers, but it is best to keep household products in the containers they come in.

This ensures longevity of the product while also reminding you exactly what the product is, including the ingredients list on the label and information on how to properly use it. Keeping products in their original containers can also help to prevent a mix-up (e.g., a floor cleaner being mistaken for apple juice).

The poison control phone number is usually found on the back of these containers, too!

Always use products in a well-ventilated space.

Keeping spaces airy and open while you clean them will help prevent a build-up of toxic fumes. Plan to open windows, keep fans moving, and keep doors open when you clean around your home.

Also, **NEVER mix different products together!** This can create harmful chemicals that may cause chemical burns and other serious reactions.

For more information
related to household
poisons:



<https://azpoison.com/poison/safe-home>





National Safety Month

May is National Safety Month—a time we can use to reflect on what we are doing to keep ourselves and families safe and healthy.

There are many steps you can take to ensure safety in and around your home. Beneficial safety measures depend on the age range of your children or whether you have pets.

Some child and pet-proofing methods are better than none! Keeping household products, medications, alcohol, and cannabis products locked away from children and pets is an excellent way to keep them safe.

Keeping wall outlets covered can help to protect children and pets as well. Practicing water safety, especially with summer just around the corner, is vital for the protection of small children and pets who may not know how to swim.

For more information on National Safety Month, click [this link](#).

In the Community: May Outreach Activities

In May, Community Outreach Coordinator Heather Doss had several opportunities to bring poison prevention efforts to the local Tucson community by tabling with various libraries.

Heather distributed free Narcan and provided opioid use disorder information, along with general poison control information, to the Murphy-Wilmot Library and the Joel D. Valdez Main Library.

The tabling events elicited a positive community response, with community members expressing their hope for more opioid-safety-focused tabling events in the future.

The opportunity to be the face of the poison center and directly communicate with the public is always a rewarding experience!





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<https://azpoison.com/content/poison-prevention-script-mailing-list>

Staff Spotlight: Dr. Hannah Nakamura, PharmD Clinical Toxicology Fellow



Hannah Nakamura grew up in southwest Virginia where she attended Virginia Tech for an undergraduate degree in biochemistry. Following this, she went on to receive her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Virginia Commonwealth University.

After completing her PGY1 residency at Northwest Medical Center, she now works at Northwest Medical Center as an emergency medicine clinical pharmacist part time and is a soon-to-be second-year fellow of Clinical Toxicology at the Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center.

On a day-to-day basis, Hannah takes care of patients ranging from critically ill needing hospital care to those safe to be watched at home. She also helps research rattlesnake envenomations and is currently working on a project looking into delayed symptom development after rattlesnake bites.