

Holiday Safety



The holiday season is a busy time, and it is important to remember to be safe during this festive season. This time of year brings joy and good cheer, but it is accompanied by a few potential hazards. It is important to be aware, and the following information can help you to be safety conscious during the holiday season:



Alcohol

- Alcohol in the form of drinks, perfume, cologne, antifreeze, and other household items can be very poisonous if swallowed by a child. Keep these products out of children's reach
- Alcohol poisoning is very serious, and can lead to severe illness or even death
- Know your limit, and stay within it



Batteries

- With so many batteries around the house at this time of year, it is important to remember that the alkaline content of these items can be poisonous to children and pets if swallowed or chewed
- Children or adults swallowing any type of battery should be referred to a healthcare facility, as there could be concern if the battery leaks or gets lodged within the body



Decorations: Fake Snow

- Comes in an aerosol can
- Contains chemicals that can be harmful if inhaled
- Dried snow is not considered poisonous

If you suspect a poisoning has occurred, contact the Poison Centre immediately by dialing 1-800-565-8161
In case of emergency, dial 911



Decorations:

Candles

- Consist of wax and synthetic materials (non-toxic)
- As most fires occur during the winter season, it is important to keep candles away from curtains, pets, children, trees, and walkways to minimize risk
- Never leave lit candles unattended



Ornaments

- Most ornaments today are made of materials that are not poisonous if swallowed, but are still a choking hazard. Antique or heirloom ornaments may contain lead, and should be kept on high branches out of reach of children and pets
- Avoid decorations that look like candy or food, as children may try to eat them



Poinsettias

- It is a myth that poinsettia plants are poisonous
- If the leaves or stem are ingested, rinse out the mouth with water.
- Mild nausea or vomiting may occur, but severe symptoms are unlikely



Gifts:

- Don't leave open gifts under the tree or in reach of children. The pretty packaging of items such as perfume or bath products attract children, and could lead to poisoning if children get their hands on them
- Avoid giving gifts with magnets to children or to people who have young children in the home. Swallowing magnets can lead to serious health problems



NOVA SCOTIA

911

IWK Health Centre
100 YEARS OF CARE 1909-2009

If you have any questions, contact the Poison Centre 24 hours a day
by dialing 1-800-565-8161