

## About The Poison Control Center at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

<http://poisoncontrol.chop.edu>

The Poison Control Center was established in 1985. It is certified by the American Association of Poison Control Centers. The Center serves Eastern Pennsylvania and the State of Delaware. The Center is staffed by certified Specialists in Poison Information, under the direction of board-certified physician-toxicologists.

Its missions:

- To provide a 24-hour toll-free public health hotline to assist families with their poison concerns.
- To identify hazardous poisoning trends within the region
- To provide advice and information to public health agencies, advocacy groups, governmental officials, and news media.
- To provide poisoning prevention education to the public.
- To provide poisoning prevention and treatment education to health care professionals.
- To provide information to healthcare professionals caring for poisoned patients.



### Support The Poison Control Center

The Poison Control Center counts on the generosity of government grants, corporate support, and individual gifts to achieve its important poison control missions.

What you can do:

- Vote for government officials who support poison control services.
- Tell your elected officials that continued financial support of poison control services is important to you.
- Protect your safety by encouraging companies to invest in poison control services
- Provide your own tax-deductible gift to The Poison Control Center.

Go to <http://poisoncontrol.chop.edu> and select the "Way to Give" link, or Call (215) 590-2003 for more information.

- Become a poison center volunteer.



## Your Guide to POISON PREVENTION and SAFETY

1-800-222-1222



The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia®

Hope lives here.

### What if a poisoning occurs?

Stay calm.

Does the person have trouble breathing, or trouble staying awake?

Yes → call 911

No → call the Poison Control Center

1-800-222-1222

Did poison get in the eyes?

Rinse eyes with running water for 15 minutes.

Call the Poison Control Center

1-800-222-1222

Did poison get on the skin?

Take off clothes that the poison touched.

Wash the skin with running water.

Call the Poison Control Center

1-800-222-1222

### What to expect when you call the Poison Control Center:

Your call will be answered by a nurse or pharmacist who is an expert in poisonings.

Be ready to give the following information:

- Your name and phone number
- Name and age of patient
- Name of substance involved (have the product near the phone)
- Time poisoning occurred
- Amount of substance involved
- Any symptoms

The specialist at the Poison Control Center will give you instructions what to do next.

### Fast poisoning facts:

- More than 2,500,000 poison exposures are called to Poison Control Centers each year.
- More than half of all calls involve children aged less than 6 years.
- Poisonings cost more than \$12,000,000,000 in the U.S. each year.
- In more than 80% of cases, the poison control center can reassure families and avoid a trip to the hospital.
- Poisonings can be prevented!

### About Poisons...

Most poisonings reported to The Poison Control Center occur in the home.

- Common household products such as cleansers, detergents, cosmetics, mouthwash, and plants are involved in over 50% of poison exposure calls.
- Common pharmaceutical products found in the home such as cough and cold medicines, vitamins, and prescription drugs are involved in the majority of poisonings.

Traditionally, the substances most frequently involved in human exposures are:

- Analgesics/Pain Relievers
- Cleaning substances
- Cosmetics and personal care products
- Plants
- Cough and cold preparations

The Poison Control Center recommends that all medications and household products be stored in their original child-resistant containers. It is also important that parents and guardians never refer to medications as "candy" or take medicine in front of young children. Other recommendations to prevent poison exposures include:

- Keep harmful products out of the reach of children and pets.
- Put safety latches on drawers and cabinets containing harmful products.
- Post the Poison Control Center phone number – 1-800-222-1222 – near each phone.



# Poison Safety Checklist

It's easy to poison proof your home. Always keep potential poisons **up and out of reach of children to help prevent a poisoning incident.**

**Make your house a safer place!** Look for these potential poison in every room of the house, keep them out of reach and locked away, and in their original containers.



The nation's poison centers have received over 74,000 calls regarding food poisoning or contamination in a single year. Food poisoning is caused by bacteria which can grow and multiply on food when food is handled in a place that is not clean, stored or cooked improperly or, in some cases, eaten raw.

To protect yourself and your family from possible food poisoning:

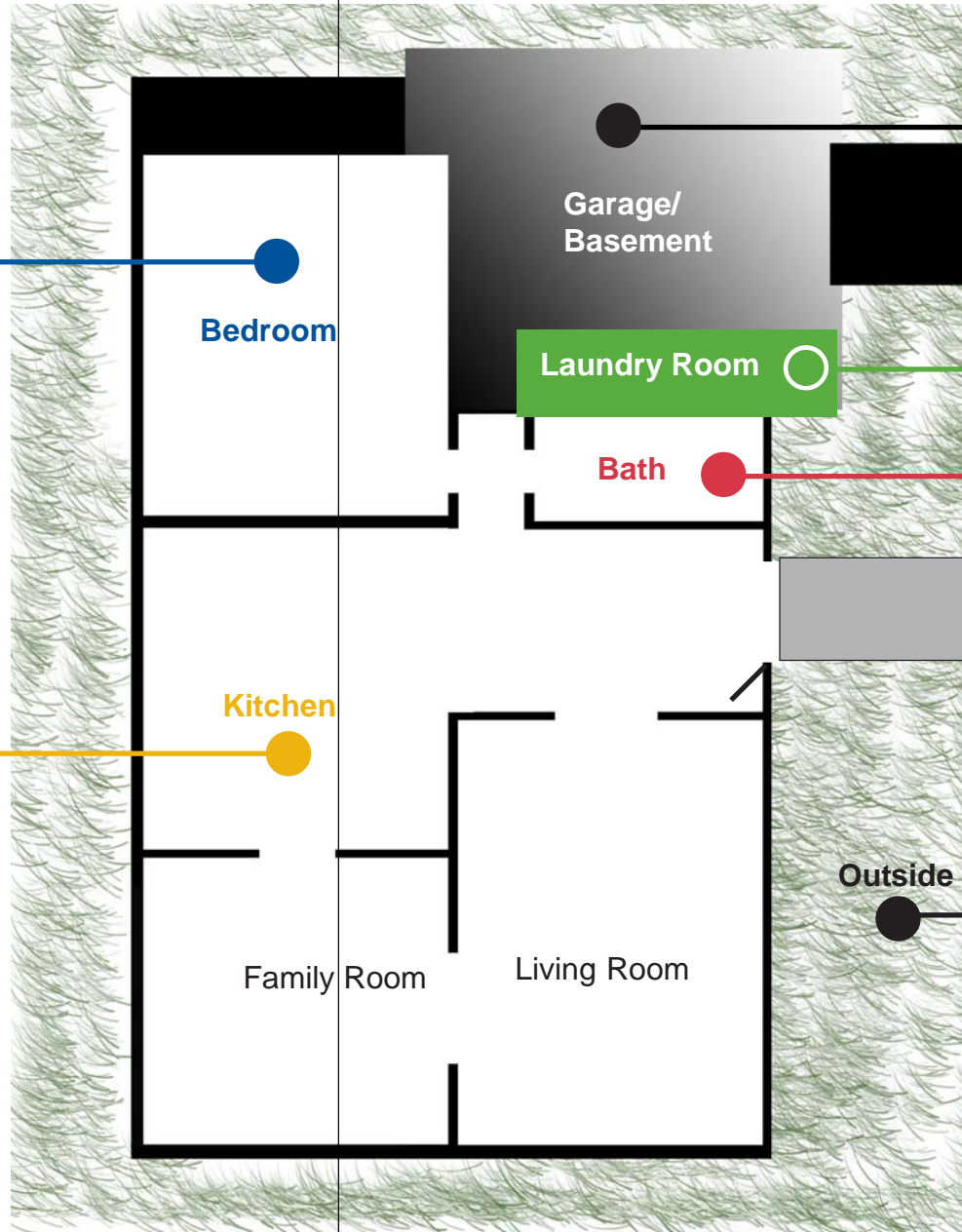
## Food

- always choose, store, handle and prepare food with care;
- handle food in ways that will keep it from being exposed to bacteria;
- thoroughly wash hands with warm, soapy water, rinse well and dry with paper towels before and after food preparation;
- kill bacteria by heating or cooling food (bacteria thrive at room temperature)
- avoid keeping foods in the danger zone -- unsafe temperatures between 40°F and 140°F. Strictly follow recommended cooking times;
- promptly refrigerate leftover foods in sealed containers.

**Call first to prevent a poisoning! Call 1-800-222-1222.**

- Cigarettes
- Lotions
- Nail polish remover
- Nail polish
- Makeup
- Medications - *prescription and nonprescription*
- Perfume/Cologne
- Hair care products

- Alcoholic drinks
- Detergents
- Oven cleaner
- Dish soap
- Carpet cleaner
- Bug sprays
- Vitamins
- Furniture polish
- Cleansers



- Antifreeze
- Paint thinner
- Garden spray
- Car cleaning products
- Weed killers
- Gasoline/Kerosene
- Paint
- Pesticides/Insecticides
- Fertilizer

- Bleach
- Disinfectants
- Soap/Detergents
- Fabric softener

- Medications - *prescription and nonprescription*
- Cleaners
- Bubble bath
- Drain openers
- Vitamins/Diet aids
- Hair products
- Lotions
- Mouthwash
- Nail polish
- Nail polish remover
- Makeup

- Plants and Berries
- Mushrooms
- Snakes
- Spiders