

Other leaflets available

Using Pesticides Safely

Pesticides and Health

Pesticide Transportation, Storage and Disposal

Lead Sources in the Home - What to avoid

Further information

For further information contact the
Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26

Pharmaceutical Services

Telephone: (08) 9388 4980

Facsimile: (08) 9388 4988

<http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au>

email: poisons@health.wa.gov.au



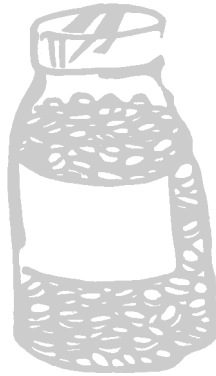
Department of Health
Government of Western Australia

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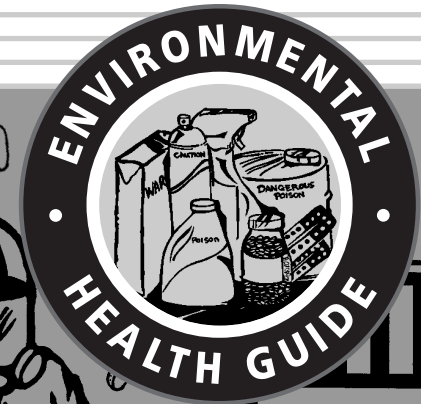
*Awareness
of Poisons*



SOLVENT

PESTICIDE

BLEACH



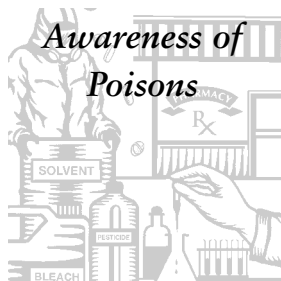
SOLVENT

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PHARMACY
Rx

Department of Health



Poisoning is common in our community in all age groups. Poisoning can occur if a person eats, drinks, inhales or injects a suspected or known poison, or gets a poison on the skin or in the

eyes or ears. Safety measures can be taken to prevent poisoning. However, if poisoning does occur, correct first aid treatment is important.

Poisonous substances may include

- Prescription and over-the-counter medicines;
- Cleaning supplies (dishwasher powder/tablets, bleaches, oven or drain cleaner, strong detergent);
- Kerosene, petrol, diesel, paint;
- Perfumes;
- Plants, garden chemicals.

To prevent poisoning in children

- Store medicines and household poisons in cupboards with child resistant locks.
- Keep medicines in child resistant packaging.
- Teach children to leave plants, berries, flowers and seeds alone.
- Keep indoor plants away from smaller children.

To prevent poisoning in adults

- Take unwanted and expired medicines to a pharmacy.
- Ensure any medicines taken are prescribed for that person.
- Read labels on household and garden chemicals carefully.
- Keep all household chemicals in original bottle.
- When using products labelled ‘Use with adequate ventilation’ or ‘Avoid prolonged or repeated breathing of vapours’, the air must be circulating using a strong fan or air extraction system unless there is a good natural breeze.



IF POISONING OCCURS

IMPORTANT

Do not induce vomiting unless advised to do so by the Poison Information Centre or a doctor. NEVER give salt or saltwater to induce vomiting.

1. Swallowed poisons

- Identify the poison if possible.
- If **caustic** (dishwasher powder or tablets, battery acid, caustic soda, bleach, oven or drain cleaner) **immediately** give small slow sips of milk or water. Then phone the 24 hour Poisons Information Centre on 131126 (local call).

2. Poison on the Skin

- If not caustic immediately pick up the container and phone the 24 hour **Poisons Information Centre** on 131126.
- Remove contaminated clothing and flood the skin with water.
- Wash gently with soap and water and then rinse.
- Call the 24 hour **Poisons Information Centre** on 131126.

3. Poison in the Eye

- Flood the eye with water from a jug or cup held about five to eight centimetres from the eye.
- Repeat for ten to fifteen minutes.
- Call the 24 hour **Poisons Information Centre** on 131126.

4. Inhaled poison

- Immediately get the person to fresh air.
- Open doors and windows wide.
- Call the 24 hour **Poisons Information Centre** on 131126.

