

Unit 24. Household Poisons



Passes European ACEA and Japanese valve train wear tests. Check your owner's manual for the proper SAE grade and always follow manufacturers' guidelines for oil change intervals while your vehicle is under warranty.

Information: 1-800-BEST OIL
or at www.quakerstate.com





WARNING: Continuous contact with used motor oil has caused skin cancer in animal tests. Avoid prolonged contact. Wash skin with soap and water.





Don't Pollute • Conserve Resources
Return Used Oil to Collection Center





436348
MADE IN U.S.
CONVENTIONAL SAE 10W-40







Vocabulary

			
medicine	detergent (soap for dishes)	candy	poison

			
a liquid	a powder	an aerosol	an herb
liquids	Flour is a powder.	aerosols	herbs

			
a look-alike	deadly	a label	peeling paint on an old house
look-alikes	Poison is deadly. It can kill a person.	labels	

			
a heart	a stomach	a kidney	a brain and a spinal cord
hearts	stomachs	kidneys	(the central nervous system)

Pronunciation

l	poison	d	c
let	poisoning	dishes	candy
lead	poisoned	detergent	caution
label	poisons	don't	contents
liquid	poisonous	danger	contains
light		dangerous	candles
look-alike		deadly	color

p	m	re-	ch
peel	medicine	recall	children
paint	make	redo	check
pottery	many	reread	chew
poison	money	repay	change
powder		remind	childproof

Clap the Stress (X x = CLAP clap)

X x	X x x	x X	X x
powder	poisonous	recall	stomach
poison	pottery	redo	kidney
children	gasoline	reread	body
cupboard	medicine	repay	nervous
bottle	jewelry	remind	system
childproof	miniblinds	regret	liquids

X x	X x x	X x	X x
spinal	spinal cord	any	headache
peeling	aerosol	many	backache
nervous	stomach ache	engine	toothache
system	everyone	running	make-up
deadly	Mexico	berries	Asia

What Poisons are in Your Home?

A poison is anything that can hurt your health if you get too much of it.

Almost anything can poison you.

It all depends on how much you touch, eat, drink, smell, or breathe in.

Even drinking too much water can poison you.

But that is very unusual.

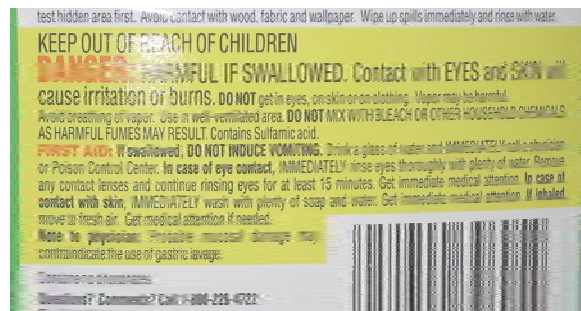
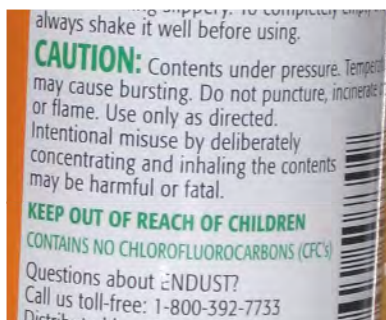
Common Household Poisons

Many things in your house can kill a person or make a person very sick:

- Prescription medicines (if you take the wrong medicine, or if you take more than the doctor prescribed)
- Household cleaners (dish detergent, toilet bowl cleaners)
- Pesticides (bug sprays)
- Meat or other foods that were not put into the refrigerator
- Anything that contains or has touched lead (old paint, some dishes, children's toys, and candy wrappers)
- Some plants and berries
- Some OTC (over the counter) drugs and medicines (if not used according to the directions)
- Carbon monoxide from a fireplace or a gas stove

Labels will tell you about the most dangerous poisons. Look for these words:

CAUTION
WARNING
DANGER
DANGER: POISON
KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN



Conversations

Conversation 1

Person 1: How old is your apartment building?

Person 2: About 35 years old. Why?

Person 1: They used lead-based paints then.

Children can get lead poisoning from lead-based paints.

Person 2: I know. That's why we had our apartment tested for lead.



Conversation 2

Person 1: What are you doing with your kid's toys?

Person 2: Checking them for lead.

If they have lead, they aren't safe.

Person 1: How do you know if they have lead?

Person 2: On the Internet. When things aren't safe, they get listed on the Internet.

Person 1: Where?

Person 2: On Florida's Lead Alert Network. They even have pictures. That's how I know this ball is dangerous.



CPSC Recall Alert: March 15, 2007

[Regent Products Corp. Recalls Stuffed Ball Toys Due to Lead Hazard](#)

Hazard: The stuffed balls contain lead paint, which is toxic if ingested by young children and can cause adverse health effects.

Description: The Fun Ball is an orange stuffed ball toy that measures 4 inches in diameter and designed to look like a basketball. The ball is printed with colored numbers, letters and 'Reg. #PA-10623(HK).'

Sold at: Dollar stores and other discount stores nationwide from June, 2006 through March, 2007 for about \$1.

Remedy: Consumers should take these balls away from young children immediately and return the toy to the store where purchased for a refund.

Consumer Contact: For additional information, contact Regent Products at (800) 940-4869 between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit the firm's Web site at www.regentproducts.com or e-mail the firm at recall@regentproducts.com



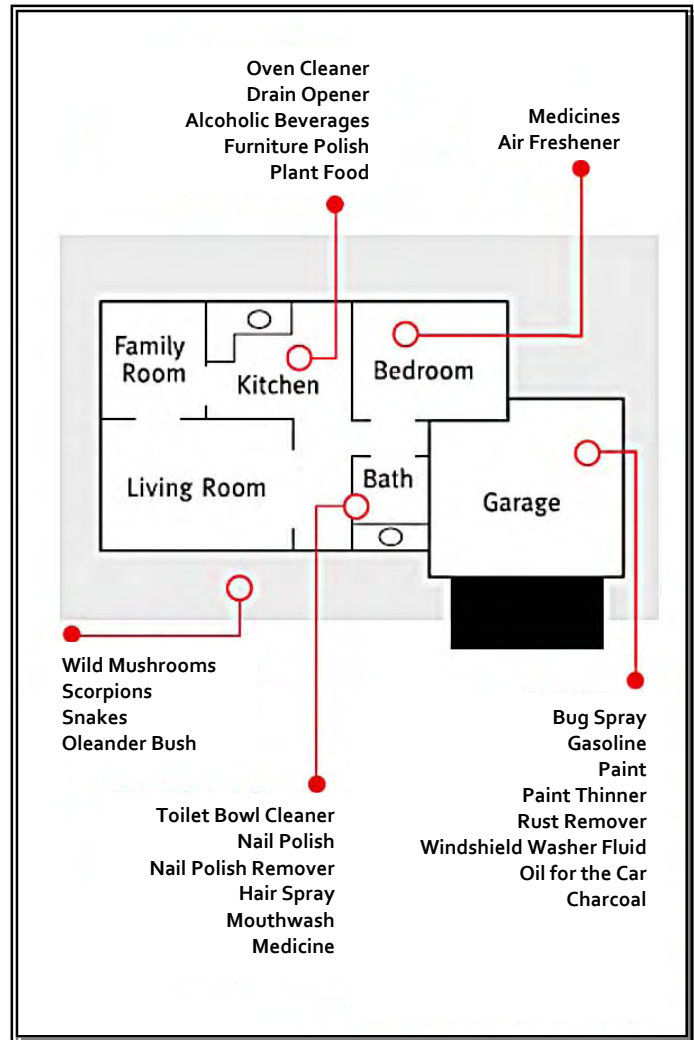
Lead Is Everywhere – Especially in Old Houses

Lead poisoning hurts both children and adults. It also hurts unborn children. You can't see, taste, or smell lead. So keep everything that might have lead in it out of your house.

Homes built before 1978 may have lead in their paint and water. In Pinellas County, 73% of the homes were built before 1978.

There is often lead outside, in the dirt around buildings and in the air. Some dishes and some toys have lead in or on them. Some make-up (cosmetics) and medicines also have lead.

Look at the picture of the house. It shows the most common places lead may exist in or around a home. Lead can be in the air, water, or soil. Lead can be in the building. It can be in dishes, toys, or dust.



Why Is Lead So Dangerous?

Lead poisoning can harm every part of the body. Lead damages the nervous system, kidneys, and brain. Lead poisoning can cause learning problems and hearing problems. It can damage the reproductive system. **No amount of lead is safe.**

The younger the person is, the more lead can harm. Children can have permanent brain damage from lead. They will not be able to do well in school. They will not be able to think well. They may not be able to do sports well. They may not grow as well as other children. Young children who swallow items containing lead can die. Children who are given medicine that contains lead get very, very sick.

The Florida Department of Health warns the public about items that have too much lead to be safe. Here are pictures of some of the items they said are unsafe. If your child has any of these items, throw them away immediately.



from China



from China



from India



from the USA



from the USA

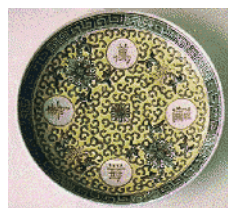
The following pictures show some items that the local, state and the US governments have said are unsafe because they contain too much lead:



from Mexico and other countries



from China



from Asia



Azarcon and Greta, home remedies



Surma and Kohl make-up from Africa, the Middle East, Iran, Pakistan, and India,



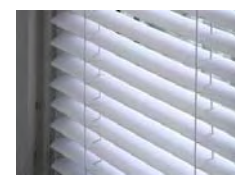
Litargiro, used as a deodorant and a home remedy in some cultures



Ayurvedic fertility pill



lead fishing sinkers



Imported vinyl mini-blinds made before 1996

To keep your family safe:

1. use only dishes that are guaranteed to be lead-free
2. do not buy candy, cosmetics, or folk remedies that contain lead
3. buy lead-free fishing gear
4. look for information about LEAD on labels and in ads

Bay Pottery has been making high-fired reduction pottery in Virginia's beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains for many years....
The Pottery is totally lead-free and safe for use in the oven, microwave and dishwasher.
 -- see www.tidelinegallery.com/fpottery/baypottery.html

Some General Poison Prevention Tips

KEEP POISONS AWAY FROM CHILDREN

- ✓ Keep medicines and household products locked up or where children cannot see or reach them.
- ✓ Keep products in their original containers.
- ✓ Use child-resistant bottles for medicine and household products.

USE POISONS SAFELY

- ✓ Always read the label and do what the label says.
- ✓ Do not let children see you take your medicine.
(They will try to take some of it, too.)
- ✓ NEVER call medicine candy.

TEACH CHILDREN TO ASK FIRST

- ✓ Lots of medicines look like food. Do not store medicine with or near food.
- ✓ Teach children to ask an adult before eating or drinking anything.
- ✓ Teach children: **If you don't know what it is, don't touch it!**

Comprehension Check

1. Where should you keep medicines and household cleaners?

2. Why should you always read the labels on medicines and household cleaners?



If you think someone has been poisoned,
call your poison center right away —

1-800-222-1222

Look-Alikes Can Be Dangerous

Look at the two chairs.
They look almost the same.
They are look-alikes.



In what ways do the chairs look alike?
In what ways are they different?

Now look at all the bottles.
In what ways do they look alike?
In what ways are they different?



Look-alikes can be dangerous.
Look-alikes are especially dangerous for young children.
If they see something that is orange, they think it is orange juice.
If they see something that is green, they think it is a soda.

Old people can be confused by look-alikes.
People who do not see well and people who can't read the words also can make mistakes with look-alikes.



Here are some other look-alikes: What are they?

What other look-alikes can you think of that are dangerous?

How to Prevent Look-Alike Problems

- ✓ Keep food items away from household cleaners.
- ✓ Keep medicine away from candy.
- ✓ Keep items in their original bottle or box or bag.
- ✓ Keep all dangerous items out of sight and out of reach.

Substance Abuse: Another Type of Poison

Children and young adults like to do what their friends do. They do not know that many common household items can make them very sick or even kill them.

People are inhaling (breathing in) things that hurt their body. They do it to for fun, to get a cheap “high.” But too often they accidentally kill themselves. In 2003, four Tampa Bay area people died from “huffing”. Three of them, like Christopher, 16, from Seminole, died when they filled a plastic bag with coolant from an air conditioner. The other person died from huffing a paint thinner. Christopher put his head into the bag of coolant and huffed. It stopped his heart. He passed out. His brain did not get any oxygen. Soon he was dead. Even if huffers don’t die, they damage their brains, kidneys, and livers.



He is “huffing” or breathing in something that will make him “high” – or kill him.

Some household items that people “huff” (inhale) are:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot removers • hair spray • polish removers • air fresheners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • glue • paint thinners • gasoline • AC coolant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • disposable lighters • whipped cream (in an aerosol can) • nitrous oxide 	
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People are misusing prescription drugs such as OxyContin. It is prescribed for pain. It is a narcotic. People chew it or grind up and inject the tablets to get “high.” OxyContin abuse causes nausea, extreme sleepiness, and other symptoms. It slows the heartbeat and can cause a coma and death.



Three Other Drugs that Can Kill



Ecstasy comes in many designs and colors. Other names for Ecstasy are: MDMA, Adam, XTX, and X. It is very deadly.



GHB is also called BD, GBL and GVL. Even ¼ of a teaspoon is dangerous.



Coricidin is also called CCC, Triple C’s and DXM. An overdose can lead to fast heartbeat, high blood pressure, convulsions, coma or death.

Three Internet Activities about Poisons

Harmful Items that Look Harmless - Are Any of These in Your Home?

1. Go to <http://www.ocregister.com/investigations/2004/lead/index.php>.
2. Click on TOXIC TREATS INDEX.
3. Then click on ENTER.
4. When the little pictures of candy appear, click on a picture. It will show you a bigger picture and details about why the candy is dangerous.
5. Do any candies look familiar? If so, find them and throw them away.

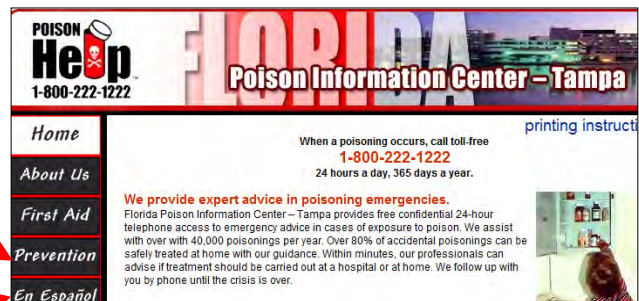


1. Go to http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Environment/community/lead/The_Lead_Alert_Network.htm.
2. Scroll down the page until you start seeing the photos of recalled products.
3. Look for items that may be in your home.
4. If you find any that are in your home, read what to do and how to get your money back. (You cannot always get your money back.)



How to Find and Use the Poison Information Center

1. Go to <http://www.poisoncentertampa.org>.
2. Click on *Prevention*.
3. What five types of items poison children the most?
4. Click on *Substance Abuse* to learn more about dangerous drugs.



NOTE: To read the site in Spanish, click here.

Credits

Many people helped to research, create, field-test, and proofread this unit. Our special thanks to: *Christy Richards, Administrator, Clearwater Adult Education Center; Donna Ratzlaff and Jan Setzekorn* of the UMCM staff and *Sandra Thursby*, esteemed colleagues all, who have provided the encouragement needed to undertake and maintain the project; and *Jean Beaton and Michelle R. Kiewit*, UMCM volunteers, who assisted with proofreading.

Photos, clipart, and other graphics were provided by *Art Explosion*, © Copyright 1995-98, Nova Development Corporation, 23801 Calabasas Rd., Suite 2005, Calabasas, CA 91302; Microsoft Office Clipart and Media, <http://office.microsoft.com/clipart/default.aspx?lc=en-us>; and Martha A. Lane, Adult Literacy Consultant.

Additional information and illustrations are from these sources:

- *Florida Poison Information Center - Tampa*, <http://www.poisoncenter.tampa.org>;
- *Lead Intervention & Healthy Homes*, <http://www.pinellashealth.com/Lead.asp>;
- *Look-alike Products*, <http://www.upstate.edu/poison/community/lookalike.php>;
- *The Human Brain*, <http://www.fi.edu/brain/metals.htm>;
- *U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission*, <http://www.cpsc.gov>;
- *Special Investigation: Toxic Treats*, <http://www.ocregister.com/investigations/2004/lead/index.php>;
- *Lead Poisoning*, http://www.cchealth.org/topics/lead_poison;
- *Where Does Lead Come From?* http://www.mass.gov/Eeohhs2/docs/dph/environmental/lead/lead_sources.pdf;
- *Yi Xing Grey-Crackled Teacups...*, <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/childlead/tableware/yxbr2.html>;
- *Your Kidneys and How They Work*, <http://kidney.niddk.nih.gov/kudiseases/pubs/yourkidneys>;
- *The Brain and Spinal Cord*, <http://www.cancervic.org.au/cancer1/patients/brain/tellmore.htm>;
- *Lead Poisoning Associated with Use of Litargirio --- Rhode Island, 2003*, <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5409a5.htm>;
- *Lead Poisoning*, <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/lead-poisoning/FL00068/DSECTION=3>;
- *Talking Points for Educating At-Risk Groups About Lead in Tableware*, <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/childlead/tableware/twtalk.html>;
- *Poison Fact Sheet for Elementary Age Students*, <http://www.healthsystem.virginia.edu/internet/brpc/education/info-sheets/elempoisonfactsheet.pdf>;
- *Utah's Lead-Based Paint Program*, <http://www.airquality.utah.gov/HAPs/lead/index.htm>;
- *Lead Poisoning*, http://www.cchealth.org/topics/lead_poison;
- *Lead in Your Food and Home Remedies*, http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/lead/pdf_files/1_308_eng.pdf; *Injury Prevention - Poisonings*, <http://www.ounce.org/poisonings.html>;
- *Reading a Hazardous Product Label*, <http://www.purdue.edu/envirosoft/housewaste/src/readhaz.htm>;
- *The Most Dangerous Poisons for Children*, <http://www.poison.org/prevent/dangerous.asp>;
- *Sudden high, sudden death*, http://www.sptimes.com/2004/04/20/Tampabay/Sudden_high_sudden_d.shtml;

Please send any suggestions for improving this unit to Martha A. Lane, *Living in Pinellas County* curriculum designer and writer: marti4lit@verizon.net.