



The New Jersey Poison Information & Education System

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Designated regional poison center
for New Jersey by New Jersey
Department of Health and Senior
Services and the American
Association of Poison Control
Centers

PRESS RELEASE

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Caution:

Tragedies Can Occur From Common Holiday Mishaps

(Newark, NJ) – The hustle and bustle of the holiday season is upon us. With all the excitement, it is easy to forget that potential tragedy can occur during this joyous time of year. As you prepare for the festivities, the New Jersey Poison Center would like to remind you that common holiday mishaps can be avoided simply by paying attention and always supervising children and pets.

Follow these easy safety tips to keep your loved ones safe during this excited time of year.

- **Alcohol-** If accidentally swallowed by children and/or pets, leftover cocktails can be fatal! Always empty beverage glasses and place them out of reach of curious children and pets.
- **Medicines-** Be sure to keep a safe, locked place for relatives and holiday visitors to store any medications they may be carrying with them. Never leave any medications in purses, nightstands, or in the bathroom where they are accessible to children.
- **Toy Safety-** Be cautious of antique or foreign-made toys! They may contain lead and be hazardous to children. For Toy Safety call the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission at 1-800-638-2772.
- **Fire Salts-** Attractive when added to fires for the colorful flames they produce. These salts can produce serious stomach problems if ingested. They need to be kept out of reach from children.
- **Tree Ornaments-** Ornaments resembling foods are as attractive as the real thing. A child or a dog may think a fake apple or cookie looks appetizing and attempt to eat it. If eaten, they can cause problems, so avoid using them for decoration.
- **Wrapping Paper- DO NOT burn in the fireplace.** They may contain toxic metals like lead, may burn at such a high temperature that they may prove dangerous to the fireplace, or flake and send sparks out into the room causing a potential fire.

Our Poison Specialists are here to help you on the holidays! For more information on holiday safety or poison prevention call 1-800-222-1222. We are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Services are free and confidential. Hearing impaired may call 973-926-8008.

Stay Safe, Enjoy the Holidays - and Remember, Help Is Just A Phone Call Away!

located at University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey

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