Resources

CPSC PPPA Information: www.cpsc.gov
(Search: Poison Prevention Information Center)

CDC PROTECT Initiative: www.cdc.gov
(Search: PROTECT Initiative)

AARP
American Association of Poison Control Centers
American Medical Association
National Capital Poison Center
Poison Prevention Week Council
Safe Kids

For more products covered under the PPPA visit: www.cpsc.gov/en/Regulations-Laws--Standards/Statutes/Poison-Prevention-Packaging-Act/

In case of Poisoning:
Call the Poison Help Line
1–800–222–1222

Can you tell the difference?

Bright colors and sweet smells appeal to children.
Each year, unintentional poison exposures send an average estimated 85,000 children to emergency departments nationwide and cause an average of 31 deaths. Most incidents occur at home with commonly used household products.

Poison Prevention Packaging Act (PPPA)

What is it? The PPPA is a law passed in 1970 to help protect children under 5 years old from being poisoned by household chemicals or medicines. Because of this law, companies must put certain medicines and hazardous household chemicals used in the home in special packaging that is child-resistant and senior-friendly. Child poisoning deaths have decreased by more than 80% since 1970 because of the PPPA.

What Products Require Special Packaging (Child-Resistant and Senior-Friendly)?

Hazardous Household Chemicals
- Furniture polish, fuels, paint solvents, glue removers, some cosmetics, drain and other cleaners, and antifreeze.

Medications
- Oral prescription drugs, iron supplements and some over-the-counter medications.

For the complete list of substances see link under resources

Common Mistakes
- Opening special packaging (child-resistant) in front of children
- Transferring hazardous household chemicals to non child-resistant containers, such as a water bottle
- Leaving easy-access weekly pill containers where children can reach them.
- Forgetting to re-secure medicine and hazardous household chemical packages after each use.
- Storing medications, vitamins and mouthwash within a child's reach.
- Throwing away medication patches in trash containers children can get into.

Remember!

“On Tight and Out of Sight”

Only keep hazardous household chemicals and medications in original packaging.

Never leave easy access weekly pill containers or open medicine packages on the counter.

To keep hazardous household chemicals and medicines out of sight, in a cabinet secured with a lock or latch.

It is important to place purses and coats containing medicine out of a child's reach.

Go into another room when taking medicine because children tend to imitate adults.

Help grandparents by purchasing a medicine lockbox for use during family visits.

Tightly secure all medicine and household chemical containers after each use.

The PPPA is effective, BUT:
The special packaging is child resistant, not child-proof, and your child may be able to open the container.