

Play  
It  
Safe

Reduce Your Child's Chances  
of Pesticide Poisoning





# Pesticides: What are they?

A pesticide is any bait, liquid, powder, or spray used to kill a pest (ants, germs, cockroaches, flies, mice, rats, or termites).

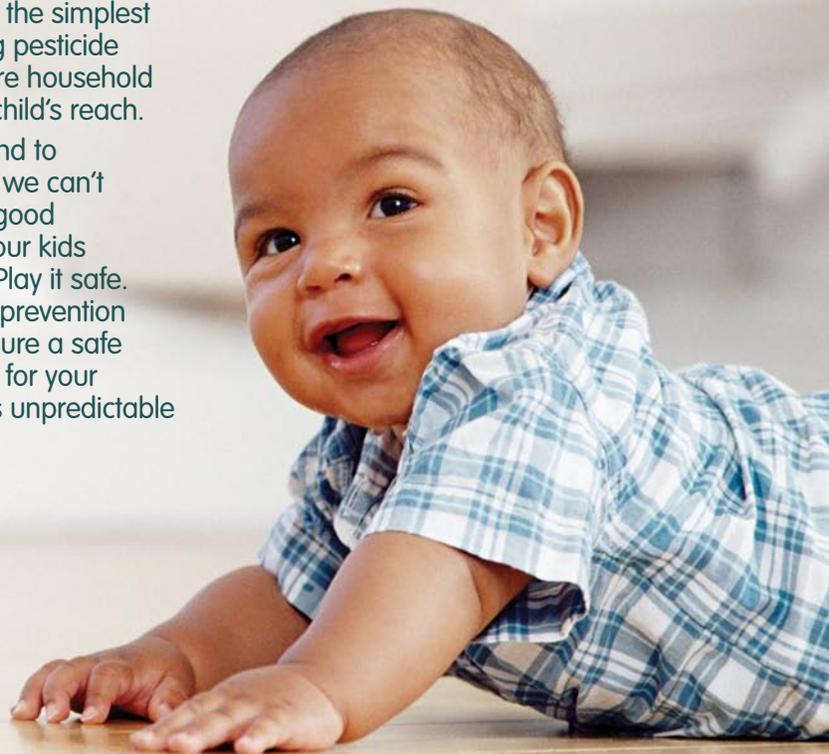
## You turn your head

and your toddler is inserting a sandwich half into the DVD player. Mostly, we're lucky; our momentary slipups as parents aren't too harmful. However, some close calls can be scary—like catching your three-year-old holding a can of bug spray.

Most people aren't aware that household pesticides, the products we use in and around our homes to kill ants, germs, cockroaches, flies, mice, rats, and termites, can harm a child's health if stored or used improperly.

Each year thousands of children under the age of six are poisoned by common household pesticide products. Many parents still store pesticide products within the reach of children. One of the simplest ways of preventing pesticide poisoning is to store household products out of a child's reach.

Accidents are bound to happen in life, but we can't depend solely on good fortune to protect our kids from harm's way. Play it safe. With some simple prevention steps, you can assure a safe and healthy home for your family despite life's unpredictable moments.



A photograph of a child climbing a yellow slide at a playground. The child is wearing a light blue shirt and a patterned skirt. The playground has a wooden mulch ground cover and a chain-link fence in the background. Other children and an adult are visible in the distance. The image is slightly faded to allow text to be overlaid.

# How do children come in contact with pesticides?

Children can come into contact with pesticides stored or applied in their homes, yards, day-cares, schools, parks, or on pets.

Children often touch things (that may contain a pesticide) and put their hands in their mouths. They also crawl and play on floors, grass, or in spaces that might contain pesticides. These activities may put them at higher risks for poisoning. Contact with pesticides may cause serious harm to a child's health.

# How do you know if your child has been poisoned?

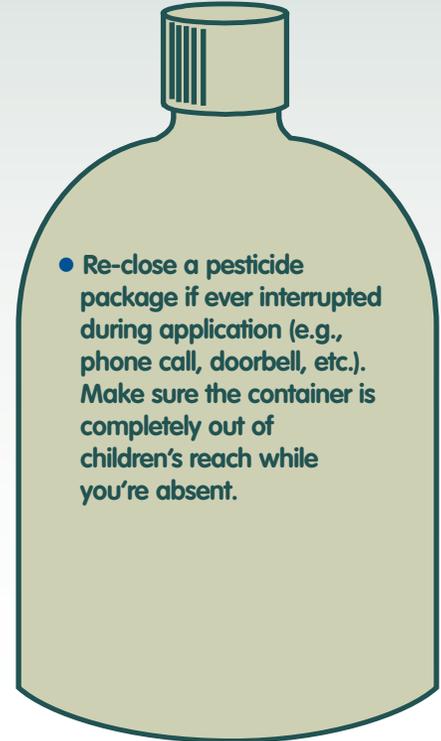
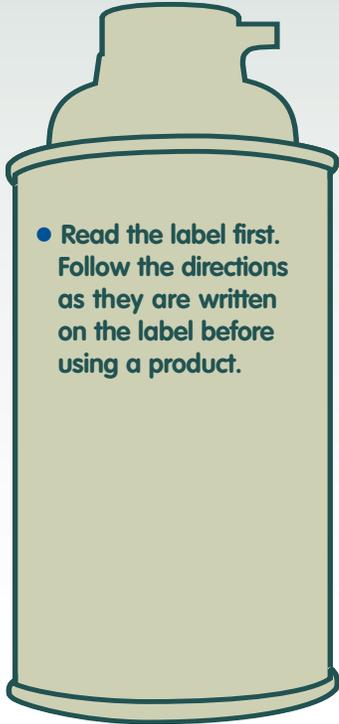
The signs of pesticide poisoning may look like the flu. If your child shows any of the following signs after coming in contact with a pesticide, call your poison control center right away.

- Headaches,
- Dizziness,
- Muscle twitching,
- Weakness, and
- Tingling.



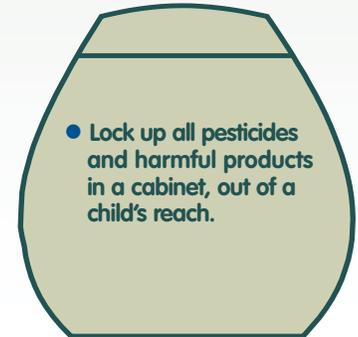
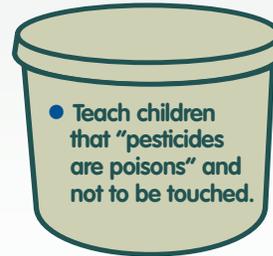
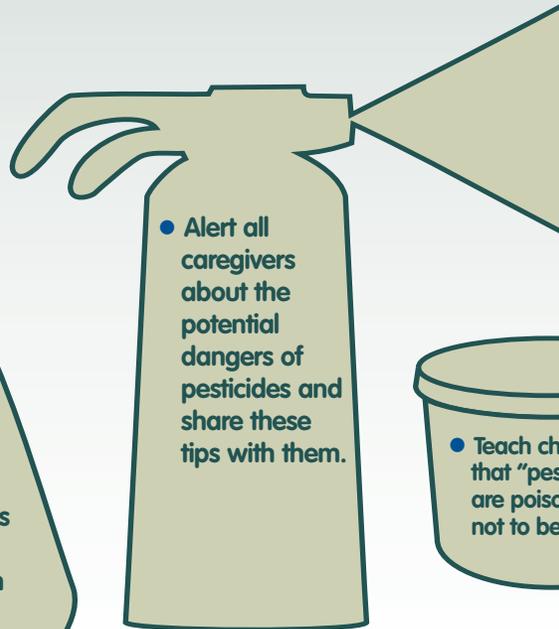
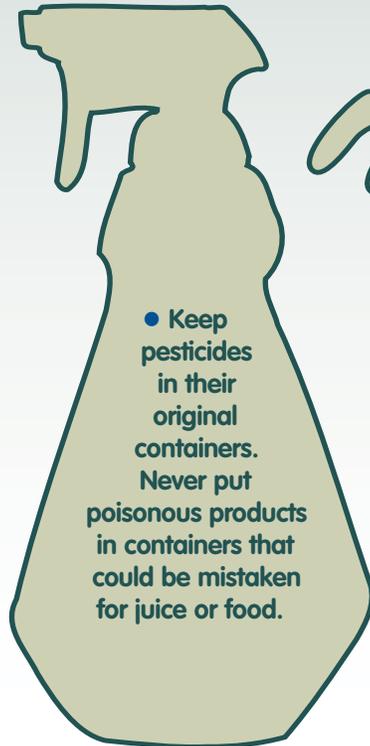
# How can I make sure that my child

Use these tips to help you poison-proof your



# doesn't get poisoned?

home:



Post the  
Poison Control Centers'  
national hotline  
phone number,  
**1-800-222-1222**,  
near every telephone in  
your home.



United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency (7506P)  
Washington, DC 20460

Official Business  
Penalty for Private Use \$300

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