

Play It Safe

Reduce Your Child's Chances
of Pesticide Poisoning



The image features a blue rectangular sign with white, hand-drawn text. The sign is tilted slightly to the right. In the top right corner, there is a stylized illustration of a purple and white aerosol can with a spray nozzle, emitting a few wisps of white smoke. In the bottom left corner, there is a stylized illustration of a white spray bottle with a blue trigger. The background is a light beige surface with a subtle wood grain pattern.

Pesticides: What are they?

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

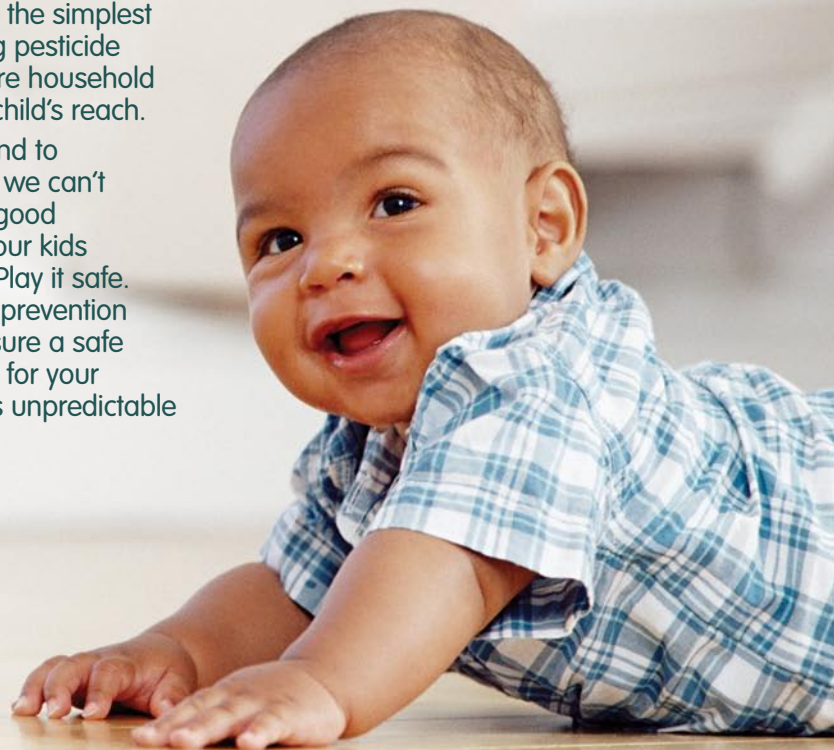
You turn your head

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 playground slide. The child is wearing a light blue shirt and patterned shorts. The slide is part of a larger yellow structure with a black roof. In the background, there are trees and a fence. 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?

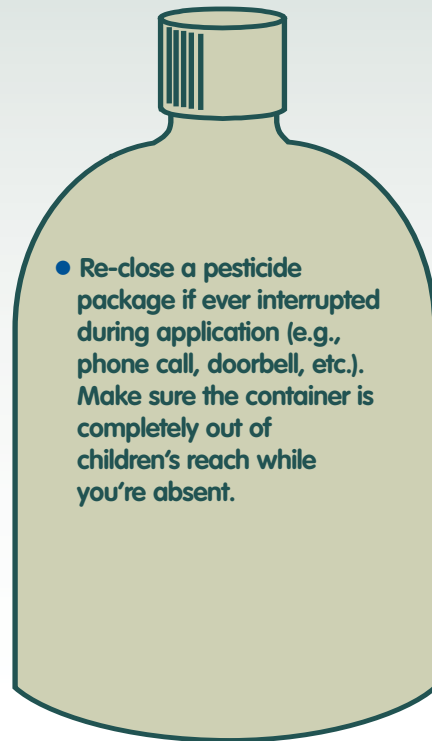
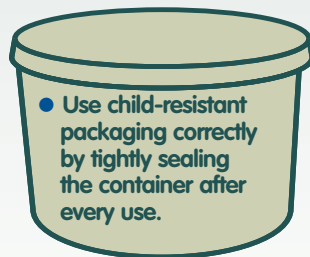
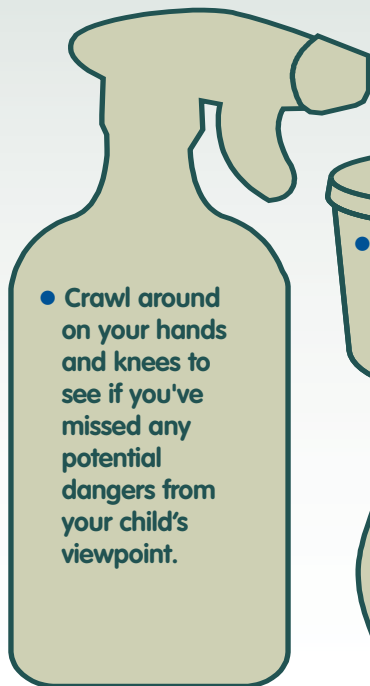
The signs of pesticide poisoning may look like the flu. If your child shows any of the following signs after coming in contact with a pesticide, call your poison control center right away.

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



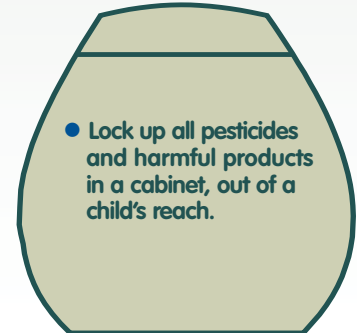
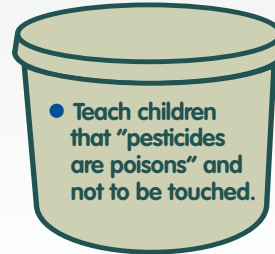
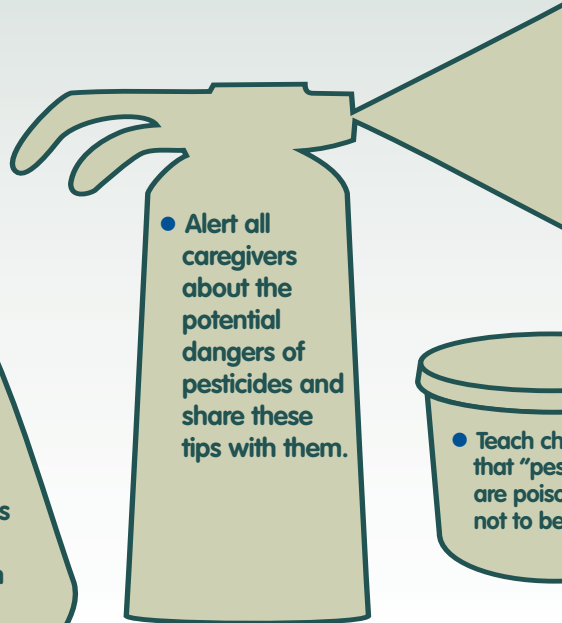
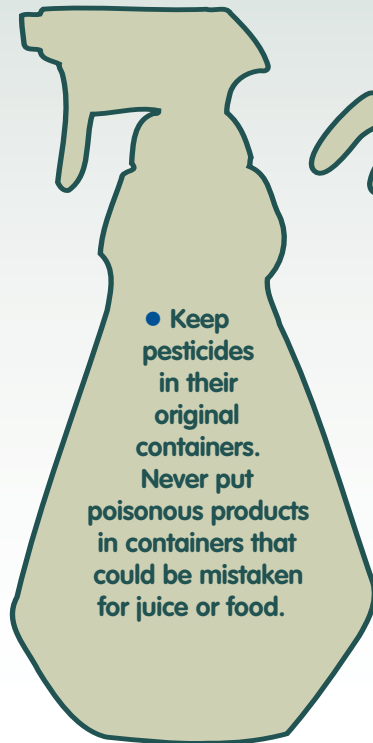
How can I make sure that my child

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

EPA 735-K-07-003

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