

POISON PERILS CHECKLIST

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Is your home poison-proof? If it's not, someone may get hurt—and soon. Take time to poison-proof your home!

POISON-PROOFING THE KITCHEN

- | | YES | NO |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Do all harmful products in the cabinets have child-resistant caps? Products like furniture polishes, drain cleaners and some oven cleaners should have safety packaging to keep young children from accidentally opening the packages. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Are all potentially harmful products in their original containers? There are two dangers if products aren't stored in their original containers. Labels on the original containers often give first aid information if someone should swallow the product. And if a product is stored in containers like drinking glasses or pop bottles, someone may think it is food and swallow it. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Are harmful products stored away from food? If harmful products are placed next to food, someone may accidentally get a food or a poison mixed up and swallow the poison. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Have all potentially harmful products been put up high and out of reach of children? The best way to prevent poisoning is to make sure that it's impossible to find and get at the poisons. Locking all cabinets that hold dangerous products is the best poison prevention. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

POISON-PROOFING THE BATHROOM

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| 1. Are all medicines stored out of sight and reach of children? Many children are poisoned each year by overdoses of aspirin. If aspirin can poison, just think of how many other poisons might be in your medicine cabinet. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Do your aspirins and other potentially harmful products have child-resistant closures? Aspirins and most prescription drugs come with child-resistant caps. Check to see if yours have them. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- | | YES | NO |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3. Have you thrown out all out-of-date prescriptions? As medicines get older, the chemicals inside them can change. So what was once a good medicine may now be a dangerous poison. Flush all old drugs down the toilet. Rinse the container well, then discard it. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Do you always give medicine only to the person the doctor prescribed it for? The medicine that worked wonders on one person may harm the next. Give drugs only to the person the doctor told you to give them to. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Are all medicines in their original containers with the original labels? Prescription medicines may or may not list ingredients. The prescription number on the label will allow rapid identification by the pharmacist of the ingredients if they are not listed. Without the original label and container, you can't be sure of what you're taking. After all, aspirin looks a lot like poisonous roach tablets. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

POISON-PROOFING THE GARAGE OR STORAGE AREA

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| 1. Did you know that almost everything in your garage or storage area that can be swallowed is a terrible poison? Violent, horrible reactions occur to people who swallow such everyday substances as charcoal lighter, paint thinner and remover, antifreeze and turpentine. Do all these poisons have child-resistant caps? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Are they stored in the original containers? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Are the original labels on the containers? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Have you made sure that no poisons are stored in drinking glasses or pop bottles? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Are all these harmful products locked up and out of sight and reach? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

When you can answer all the questions with a 'yes', your house is poison-proofed. Then, to make sure your house stays poison-proof, when you buy potentially harmful products make sure they have child-resistant closures and keep these products out of sight and reach.

The Texas A&M University System



Texas Agricultural Extension Service

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