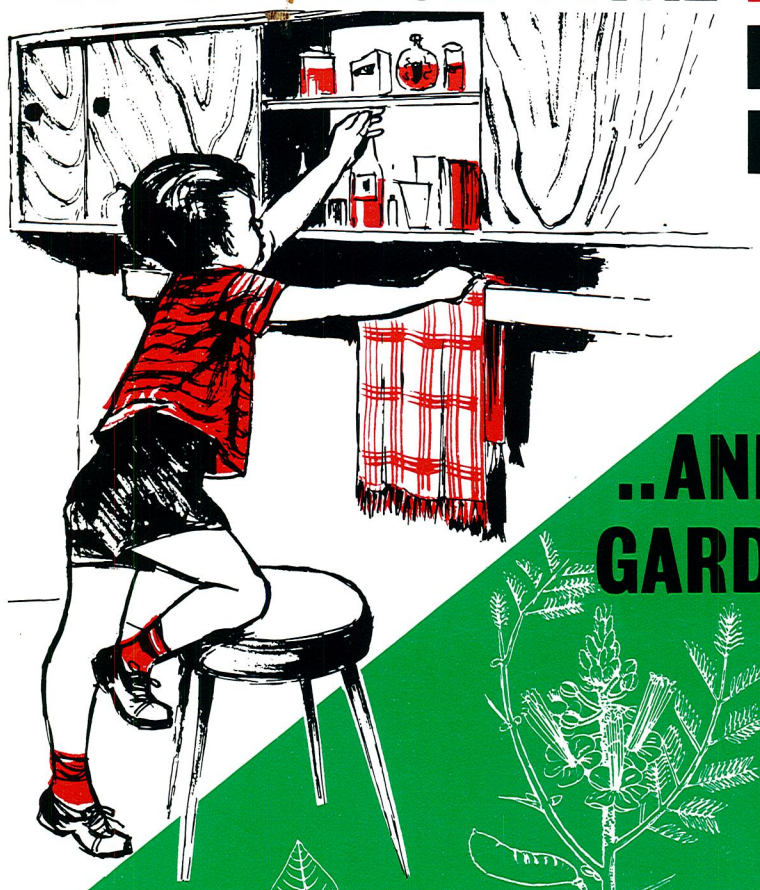
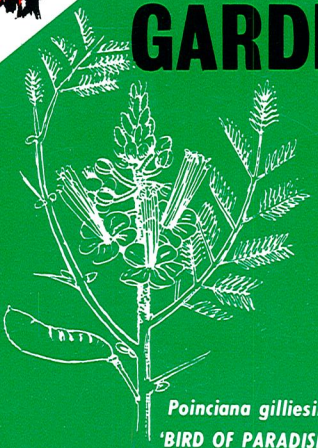
National Safety Council of W.A. Inc.

PREVENT ACCIDENTAL 'POISONING' IN THE HOME..



..AND GARDEN

Ricinus Communis,
'CASTOR-OIL PLANT'



Poinciana gilliesii,
'BIRD OF PARADISE'

Carissa spectabilis,
'WINTER SWEET'

Rhus radicans,
'POISON IVY'

National Safety Council of W.A. (Inc.)
Mount Lawley, W.A. 6050

Foreword

The sad part of the poisoning problem is that it is the young children that suffer the most, mainly to children under the age of four years.

One of the ways a young child learns about the world around him is by putting things into his mouth. BUT . . . he has no previous experience to tell what is safe or unsafe to taste. He cannot read warnings on labels. He has not yet developed any attitude about tastes he likes or dislikes. SO . . . he tastes them all. As soon as he becomes mobile, then he will be exploring and poking into everything and anything.

By being aware that young children naturally explore and put things into their mouths, we must protect them whilst they are too young to understand and educate them as they grow older. This booklet has been designed to help you to KNOW YOUR POISONS.

Any queries please contact our home safety division, Mondays to Fridays 8.30 a.m.-5.00 p.m. Telephone (09) 272 1666.

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POISONS INFORMATION CENTRE

is located at the

PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN

Thomas Street — Subiaco.

Poisons Information Centre

DIRECT TELEPHONE LINES

Metropolitan 381 1177

Country calls (local call fee only) 008 119 244

Although the hospital already provides information on poisoning, the establishment of a Poisons Information Centre will allow a more efficient service which will also be integrated at a national level through National Poisons Service in Canberra.

Generally the role of a Poisons Information Centre is to provide information —

(i) To MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC who will be advised as to the need for medical care. They will also be given details of emergency first aid treatment where appropriate.

(ii) To DOCTORS regarding the nature of the poison, the antidote if available, and treatment if requested by the doctor.

(iii) To CHEMISTS on the nature of the poison and details of emergency or first aid treatment.

Its second major function is to collect information and statistics regarding poisoning to be forwarded to the State Health Authorities and the National Poisons Service.

HAZARDS OF MIXING HOUSEHOLD CLEANING AGENTS

Many housewives in Australia make a practice of mixing together various household cleaners with a view to making them stronger or more effective as a cleaning agent. They hope that their own formula will make a better cleaner than any one commercial cleaner.

Poisoning by mixtures such as this, is usually from inhalation of the fumes caused by the reaction of one substance with another. The incident usually occurs in a poorly ventilated or closed space.

The most common combinations used are mixtures of chlorine bleach with ammonia or vinegar. Chlorine and vinegar react and produce large volumes of chlorine gas. When chlorine is mixed with ammonia, large volumes of ammonia gas are given off.

Chlorine is a highly corrosive gas. Inhalation of this gas produces coughing, choking, headache and dizziness. Later (in 6-8 hours) swelling of the lung tissue, accompanied by difficulty in breathing, blue colour to face and low blood pressure may result.

Inhalation of ammonia gas can produce swelling of the lung tissue and pneumonia. Cleaning **any** confined area with **any** cleaning agent carries with it a certain risk, and the practice of mixing a variety of household cleaners, is a highly dangerous one.

VENTILATION IS ESSENTIAL

Never use solvents in unventilated rooms. Such products as paint thinners, paint and floor strippers, glue solvents, solvents used for removing spots from clothes, anti-mould applications in laundries and bathrooms, should be used with care. Follow instructions carefully.

Never seal off ventilation ducts in the cold weather to keep the area warm. Carbon monoxide poisoning may occur if a heater is burning in an unventilated room.

LAW . . . FOR YOUR PROTECTION AND THE SAFETY OF YOUR CHILD

Since July, 1965, when the West Australian Government introduced new legislation relating to hazardous household substances, all manufacturers are now COMPELLED :

1. To print the words—DANGEROUS IF SWALLOWED. KEEP OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN. IF SWALLOWED, SEEK MEDICAL ADVICE — on the label.

   LOOK FOR THIS WARNING and do what it advises, KEEP OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN.

2. The active ingredients must also be shown on the label. This means that if your child should be unfortunate enough to swallow some dangerous substances, the ingredients will inform the doctor of the type of treatment he must give. TAKE THE BOTTLE OR CAN WITH YOUR CHILD TO THE DOCTOR.

3. The label must also carry information which will tell the doctor what to give the child during the treatment. This information — called the ANTIDOTE is most important. That is why you are advised to TAKE THE BOTTLE OR CAN WITH YOU TO THE DOCTOR.

THE BEST CURE OF ALL IS — PREVENTION.

MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD NEVER SWALLOWS THESE HARMFUL SUBSTANCES BY KEEPING THEM OUT OF SIGHT AND OUT OF REACH OF YOUR CHILD.

MAKE USE OF THIS LAW WHICH IS DESIGNED TO PROTECT YOU AND YOUR CHILD by— ***Always reading the Label***

SWIMMING POOL CHEMICALS

CHLORINATING COMPOUNDS AND OTHER CHEMICALS USED IN SWIMMING POOLS

CLASSIFICATION WITH RESPECT TO POISONS ACT, 1964-1970:

The Fifth Schedule (HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES) includes:

"Bleaches and chlorinating compounds containing more than 4 per cent available chlorine."

The requirements for packaging and labelling of Fifth Schedule substances are stipulated in the Poisons Act Regulations, 1965 — especially those entitled "Containers", "Labels", and "Containers and labels — general".

POTENTIAL HAZARDS:

Chlorinating compounds (e.g. Calcium hypochlorite) are strong oxidising agents so heat or contact with acids, organic or combustible material may cause fire or explosion.

Examples of materials with which contact must be avoided:
Acids, alum, paint products, beverages, tobacco, soap products, fabrics, paper, saw-dust.

SUGGESTED WARNINGS:

1. **CHLORINATING COMPOUNDS:**

   Highly reactive, oxidising chlorine compounds may cause fire or explosion or produce severe burns.

   Avoid contact with acids, paint products, fabrics, soap products, saw-dust and other oxidisable substances.

2. **CYANURIC ACID:**

   Never mix with chlorinating chemicals.

   A mixture with calcium hypochlorite can explode, particularly if moist.

TO MINIMISE DANGER RISK:

It is recommended that users be advised of the following:—

STORAGE

DO NOT ALLOW TO GET DAMP

Store under cover in a cool dry place; in non-reactive container, excluding the access of moisture and contaminants. The place should be well ventilated and free from acids, reducing agents, ammonium compounds, wood shavings, saw-dust, fabrics, petrol, kerosene and other combustible materials.

No smoking in storage area.

Keep out of the reach of children

SAFE HANDLING

ALWAYS USE ACCORDING TO INSTRUCTIONS

1. DO NOT add water to calcium hypoclorite under any circumstances. Confined areas add to the danger of explosions. Always add the chemical to the water carefully, stirring in a clean open container.
2. DO NOT mix one pool chemical with another before adding to the pool either in the dry state or in solution.
3. Handle container with care. Do not drop.
4. Keep container and chemical away from small spillages of water and rain.
5. Open container carefully and do not inhale dust. Replace lid securely, immediately after use, to keep out moisture and contaminants.
6. Avoid contact with the eyes, skin and clothing. Immediately wash any spillage with plenty of water, especially on skin or clothing.
7. Not to be taken internally — harmful if swallowed.
8. Never mix with acids or acidic substances, chemicals, household solvents or other products.

IN CASE OF FIRE DRENCH WITH WATER

FIRST AID & ANTIDOTE

SKIN –

1. Wash spillage off skin with plenty of water.
2. Call doctor for serious injury.

EYES –

1. FLOOD IMMEDIATELY using eye-wash bottle or jugs of clean water for 15 minutes.
2. Call doctor immediately.

INTERNAL –

1. Give ample quantities of milk or water.
2. If available, give milk of magnesia.
3. Call doctor immediately.

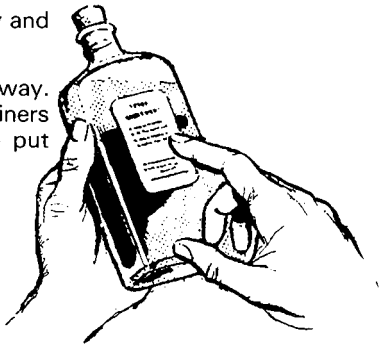
EXAMPLES OF CHEMICALS TO WHICH THIS BULLETIN REFERS:

SODIUM DICHLOROISOCYANURATE / CYANURIC ACID / SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE
POTASSIUM TRICHLOROISOCYANATE / TROPICAL BLEACHING POWDER
CHLOROSENE TRICHLOROISOCYANURIC ACID / CALCIUM HYPOCHLORITE

(Public Health Department of Western Australia)

HINTS TO PREVENT POISONING ACCIDENTS

1. Always READ THE LABEL on all products you buy and FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY.
2. Keep all harmful products out of reach or locked away. Child resistant locks, poison cabinets and containers are available on the market. Ask pharmacists to put your prescriptions in child resistant containers.



3. TROUBLE SPOTS

Kitchen

The cupboard under the sink — floor polish, bleach, detergent, oven cleaner, ammonia, etc. Food cupboard, extracts, spices, condiments, essences.

Bathroom Cupboard

Home perm kits, ear and eye drops, medicines, tablets, hair dyes, hair tints, body perfumes, deodorants and hair removers.

Toilet

Deodorant blocks and toilet cleaners.

Laundry

Kerosene, bleach, fly spray, rat poison insecticides.

Bedroom

Scents, hair sprays, body perfumes, nail varnish, nail varnish remover, hair remover, pills, tablets, moth balls.

Lounge

Alcohol, inks.

Garage and Garden Sheds

Garden dusts and sprays, pest killing pellets, petrol, kerosene, paint thinner, rat poison, glues, solvents etc.

4. Never store harmful products in milk or soft drink bottles or any containers which originally held food or drink. Sometimes children drink the contents by mistake.
5. Never place a cup or food container under a leaking oil storage tank. Youngsters associate these containers with food and drink. Warning labels are no use to youngsters who cannot read.
6. Check the contents of a handbag or briefcase before allowing a child to play with it. Pills and tablets, sprays are often carried around.
7. It is unwise to let your children see you taking pills and medicines. They are great imitators.

8. Never persuade a child to take tablets and pills by telling them they are "Lollies". Tell your child that he is taking only one tablet to make him better.
9. NEVER STORE MEDICINES NEAR PRODUCTS MEANT FOR EXTERNAL USE. If the containers are similar, it is easy to pick up the wrong bottle, especially if a person has poor eyesight or is ill, or picks up the wrong bottle in the dark.
10. Take care of spray cans containing pesticides, paint, lacquers, etc. A small child may accidently spray the product into his eyes or onto his skin. Always make sure there is plenty of ventilation when using aerosols and spray cans.
11. Take care where you place a pram or playpen in the garden. Never near poisonous plants. A leaf or flower may fall and find its way into a baby's mouth.
12. Make sure that cots, toys and other 'child-chewed' objects have non-toxic paint. Be aware of sources that can cause lead poisoning, e.g. in the form of old paint chips, damaged walls, old window ledges, home made pottery, etc. Children with compulsive 'pica habits' may bite and chew through the layers of new lead-free paint into the under layers of old paint with a high lead content. If lead poisoning is suspected, seek medical advice.
13. Never place half empty bottles of medicine in the kitchen tidy or in the garbage bin. A curious toddler may find them and drink the contents by mistake. Empty any leftovers down the toilet — wash out the containers before putting them into the rubbish bin.
14. Dispose of all unused medicines, pills and household products. Unused medicines may be taken to a pharmacist for disposal.

Ideally, you should discard the "deadwood" from your medicine cabinet once a month.

Start your cleanup by disposing of the following:—

1. Any medicine that has changed colour or formed a residue at the bottom of the bottle.
2. Antibiotics remaining from previous illnesses.
3. Any medication over 2 years of age from date of purchase.
4. Aspirin tablets that are crumbly or that give off a vinegary odor.
5. Eyewash or eyedrops left over from treating any eye disorder. (Fungus and bacterial growth may develop in these.)
6. Antiseptic solutions that have become cloudy (unless the label says this is all right) or have a solid residue at the bottom.
7. Nose drops that have become cloudy or have developed a sediment.
8. Ointments (or salves) that have separated, developed spots or become discoloured.
9. Milk of magnesia that has become caked.
10. Hydrogen peroxide that no longer bubbles vigorously when applied.

15. Never take or give medicines prescribed for somebody else.

16. elderly people should leave only one dose of medicine by their beds. Sometimes they forget whether they have taken their dose or not. Resulting in an overdose of drugs.

17. If you don't know the correct action to take in case of a poisoning accident, phone your family doctor or the Poisons Information Centre for advice — tell them exactly what has happened and they will advise you what action to take.

18. Poison Cabinets 675mm by 450mm, fitted with child resistant locks can be obtained in Western Australia from:—

A.T.U.L. (Aids to Useful Living) Ltd.
C/- Industrial Rehabilitation Unit,
Camelia Street, Graylands, W.A. 6010
Telephone (09) 384 1988

In addition commercially made poison cabinets are available from some hardware outlets or builders merchants.

LOCK POISONS AWAY

IPECAC IN THE HOME

Please Note – Syrup of Ipecac deteriorates with time. The pack should be marked with the date of purchase. Replace after 3 years.

The Poisons Information Centre at Princess Margaret Hospital, Western Australia, recommended IPECAC to be kept in the medicine cabinet in case of a poisoning accident.

According to Dr. D. L. Gurry, of the Preventive Medicine Committee, "the stock advice to parents who ring the Centre is, regardless of the nature of what has been taken, **unless** it is **oily** or **corrosive,** get him to vomit it up, and if he can't, then bring him in here."

For, when a child swallows a poison, as a rule he only gets into trouble if that poison stays inside him. Most poisons have to be absorbed before causing illness and if they can be vomited back first, the illness can be prevented.

One dose of USP Syrup of Ipecac, 15ml, taken by mouth causes vomiting within 30 minutes and the stomach is emptied more efficiently than by a stomach washout.

The idea is that if a single dose bottle is kept in every bathroom, just in case of a poisoning accident, it would mean that vomiting can be started sooner. Ring the poisons centre first. This is necessary to find out whether the substance is in fact poisonous (the Poisons Information Centre which gives a 24 hour service, has a register of contents of household drugs and other products).

Ipecac is NOT SUITABLE for poisoning from:

1. PETROLS AND OILS (where inhalation is more dangerous than swallowing).
2. CORROSIVES, e.g. oven or toilet cleaners. (Where it is important to dilute the substance swallowed to lessen the risk of further burning).
3. DRUGS which have an antiemetic action (an increasing group including anti-histamines, tranquilisers, atropine-like substances, anti-Parkinsonian agents and anti-depressants).

   The anti-emetic action of these drugs can defeat Ipecac and so indicate the stomach washout.

A POISON ANTIDOTE KIT for emergency treatment in the home can be obtained from any pharmacists.

The kit contains two antidotes – syrup of Ipecac, which induces vomiting, and activated charcoal, which absorbs the poison in the stomach.

It also contains an easy-to-read poisons advice chart.

It advises people to first ring the poison information centre, a doctor or hospital, and then give the antidote appropriate to the poisonous substance taken.

The chart lists 86 common poisonous substances found in and around the home, and antidote to use and the way to use it.

PLEASE NOTE: Syrup of Ipecac deteriorates with time. The pack should be marked with the date of purchase and replaced after 3 years.

POISONOUS SUBSTANCES FOUND IN THE HOUSEHOLD

A glance at the following table will show what poison the product probably contains :

POLISHES AND WAXES FOR FURNITURE AND FLOORS

Petroleum Distillates	Other Toxic Substances
Kerosene	Antimony chloride
Mineral seal oil	Caustic alkali
Mineral spirits	Cellosolve
Naphtha, high boiling	Isopropyl and butyl alcohols
Spindle oil	Nitrobenzene
Stoddart solvent	Oxalic acid
Summer Black oil	Turpentine

PAINT SOLVENTS AND RELATED PRODUCTS

Removers of Paint, Wax Lacquers, Grease Spots	Paint Brush Cleaners and Preservatives	Paints, Putty, Varnishes
Amyl acetate	Acetone	Arsenic
Alcohols (amyl, butyl, ethyl)	Caustic alkalis	Chromium
Amylene dichloride	Cresols and higher phenols	Iron
Benzine	Dipentine	Lead
Butyl acetate	Methanol	Titanium
Carbon tetrachloride	Naphthalene	Zinc
Caustic alkalis	Sodium chromate	
Ethyl acetate	Tuluol	
Ethylene dichloride	Turpentine	
Kerosene, Methol alcohol, Methylene chloride, and Toluene		

Always read the Label and follow the instructions carefully

CLEANING, POLISHING AND BLEACHING AGENTS

Metal Cleaners and Polishers
Strong Acids and Alkalis

Ammonia water, caustic soda

Hydrochloric acid, dilute

Phosphoric acid, dilute

Soda ash

Sulphuric acid

Sulphuric acid, dilute

White Spirit

Others :

Alkyl aryl sulphonate

Oxalic acid

Potassium chlorate

Potassium cyanide

Thiourea

Detergents
Strong Alkaline Solutions

Sodium hydroxide

Sodium metasilicate

Sodium perborate

Sodium phosphate glass

Tetrasodium phosphate

Others :

Ethylene glycol

Sodium hypochlorite

Fly Sprays :

(Aerosol or Liquid)

Kerosene oil base preparation

Pyrethrum

Dry Cleaning Fluids

Acetone

Benzine

Carbon tetrachloride

Amyl acetate

Ethylene dichloride

Kerosene

Methyl alcohol

Naphtha, heavy petroleum

Petroleum distillates

Stoddart solvent

Toluene

Trichlorethylene

Garden Sprays and Mixtures

Chlorinated Hydro Carbons with other Toxic ingredients harmful if swallowed.

Always read the Label and follow the instructions carefully

COSMETIC PREPARATIONS

Hair Preparations

Permanent Wave Solutions

Sodium carbonate
Sodium sulphite
Thioglycollate salts

Neutralizers

Acetic Acid
Potassium bromate
Sodium hexametaphosphate
Sodium perborate

Lacquers

Denatured alcohol
Shellac resin

Hair Dyes, Tints Colorings

Ammonium hydroxide
Ammonium nitrate
Metallic dyes
Para-phenylene-diamine
Pyrogallol
Sodium hypochloride sol.

Shampoos

Denatured alcohol
Sodium hexametaphosphate

Hair Lotions

Beta-naphthol
Cantharidin
Denatured ethyl alcohol
Glacial acetic acid
Isopropyl alcohol
Pilocarpine
Salicyclic acid
Tertiary butyl alcohol
Industrial methylated spirit (contains wood naphtha)
Kerosene deodorized

Depilatories

Calcium thioglycollate
Soluble sulphides

Sun Tan Lotions

Denatured alcohol
Methyl salicylate
Para-aminobenzoic acid esters

Skin Tonics, Lotions

Aluminium salts
Camphor or menthol
Methylated spirits
Zinc phenosulphonate
Zinc sulphate

Nail Preparations Organic Solvents

Alcohols (ethyl, isopropyl, n-butyl)
Esters
Ketones

Lacquers, Plasticizers, Resins

Dibulyl phthalate
Nitrocellulose
Sulphonamide resins

Cuticle Removers

Dilute caustic alkalis

Always read the Label and follow the instructions carefully

OTHER TYPES OF HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS AND CHEMICALS

Antifreeze, Carburettor Cleaners

Chlorinated benzine
Alcohols (denatured, isopropyl, methyl)
Ethylene glycol

Deodorizing Tablets

Formaldehyde

Anti-Rust Products

Ammonium sulphide
Hydrofluoric acid
Naphtha
Oxalic acid

Leather Polishes and Dyes

Benzine
Methanol
Naphtha
Talloil

Wax Crayons

Para red

Shoe Cleaners and Polishes

Nitrobenzene
Shellac
Titanium dioxide
Turpentine

Inks.

Iron gallate
Phenol
Silver nitrate
Soda ash

Jewellery Cleaners and Cements

Ammonia
Isopropyl alcohol
Nitrocellulose in ketone
Petroleum solvent

Typewriter Cleaner

Cellosolves
Methanol

Fire Extinguisher Fluids

Carbon tetrachloride

Laundry Blue

Prussian oxalic acid blue

Rug Adhesives

Latex
Sulphur
Synthedi rubber
Zinc oxide

Plastic Menders, Glues

Cellulose acetate
Ethylene dichloride
Formaldehyde
Nitrocellulose

Christmas Bulb Fluid.

Methylene chloride

Always read the Label and follow the instructions carefully

WARNING ON MIXING MEDICINES

People who take more than one drug (prescribed or otherwise), without first consulting their doctor or chemist, may be risking their very lives.

There is a growing concern about people who wind up "Poisoning" themselves by unwittingly taking lethal combinations of medicines.

These interactions of drugs within the body are known as:—

a) POTENTIATION or multiplication.
b) ANTAGONISM or neutralization.

POTENTIATION

In this case combination can multiply the effects leading to a hazardous point. Examples include the following:—

1. If a patient consumes alcoholic beverages in conjunction with sedatives, tranquillizers, antidepressants, antihistamines, (many common cough and cold remedies contain these) sleeping tablets and many others; the driving of a motor vehicle or operation of complex machinery, could prove disastrous.

2. Oral anti-coagulants used for breaking down clots in blood vessels (i.e. after child birth, varicose veins, heart attacks or strokes), when combined with aspirin or Butazolidine® could result in an internal haemorrhage, possibly leading to death.

3. Patients with "mature-age-onset-diabetes" (where blood glucose levels are controlled by diet and drugs alone) could become very ill (profuse sweating, trembling, etc.) if they mix their drugs with commonly prescribed fluid tablets (for high blood pressure) or tablets prescribed for cardiac arrythmias (irregular heart beat) or alcohol.

4. Patients suffering with hypertension (high blood pressure) should be ultra cautious about taking slimming tablets or certain cough and cold remedies.

5. The combination of antacids with certain sleeping tablets could prolong the sedation, leaving the patient drowsy for most of the day.

ANTAGONISM

1. **Barbiturates** (sleeping tablets), Butazolidine® taken **together with the oral contraceptive pill**, could prove unfortunate, if **CONTRACEPTION** is the desired aim.

2. The concurrent consumption of antacids, tonics containing iron, or milk, with the commonly prescribed **TETRACYCLINE** antibiotics (MYSTECLIN V, ACHROMYCIN, TETREX, etc.) could render the antibiotic all but useless.

There are countless other more exotic interactions, but the upshot of it all is that when a consultation is made, the patient would be wise to inform the doctor of any of the following points:—

1. If he is currently taking any other **PRESCRIBED** medication.
2. If he is taking any over-the-counter products, either long-term or intermittently.
3. If he is still taking drugs ordered for him on his discharge from a hospital.
4. If an immigrant newly arrived (or a traveller), whether he is taking any drugs or medications from other countries, i.e. Italy, England.
5. If he is taking anything "PRESCRIBED" by next door neighbours, friends or family.

If in any doubt do not hesitate to seek qualified advice either from your doctor or chemist. You may even request your chemist to maintain a **"patient drug profile"** (a **continuous record** of all medications and drugs you are currently taking).

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT GARDEN DUSTS AND SPRAYS?

Fly sprays, garden dusts, liquid pest killers, bleaches and cleaning agents are now in common use in almost every home.

Their use has added a great deal to the comfort and cleanliness of our homes, and to better production in our flower and vegetable gardens.

Nevertheless, they are usually a high hazard to children and adults, through their misuse and careless storage, and along with many other household products in common use in the home, represent a high proportion in the number of poisoning accidents.

Because they are such everyday commodities in our home we tend to regard them as harmless. As a consequence they are usually left on a low bench in the garage, or in a low cupboard in the laundry, and often even on the verandah floor, where they represent a thing of profound interest to the exploring toddler bent on learning about his world by touch and taste.

However, not only children fall victim to sprays and dusts, as the following short precautionary rules will show.

Here are some general rules for safety...

1. If it is **insects** you wish to control — identify the insect, then buy the correct pesticide after seeking advice from the salesman.
2. If it is a **plant disease** you wish to control — identify the disease, then buy the correct spray or dust.
3. **Follow instructions on the label**. Do this every time you use the pesticide. The label will tell you the **right** amount to use, **how** to use it, and **when** to use it.
4. **Always** keep measuring spoons, cups, tins, funnels used to measure your quantities of pesticides **with the product. Do not** use them for other purposes.
5. **Mix pesticides out of doors**. Fumes may be dangerous. When opening a pesticide container, keep face away and to one side. **Keep children and pets** away when opening, mixing or applying pesticides.
6. **Avoid spraying on a windy day** because wind can cause pesticides to drift to other areas or into the air and others breathe. Always avoid breathing pesticide dusts or mists.
7. **Do not smoke while mixing and using pesticides**. Pesticide on hands can be carried to mouth on a cigarette. Also some pesticides are flammable, and fumes could be ignited.
8. **ALWAYS WASH HANDS AND ARMS WITH SOAP AND WATER** after using pesticides, as some of these products can be absorbed through the skin. If clothes are contaminated, remove and wash thoroughly before wearing again. If pesticides enter your eyes, flush them with plenty of water and go to a doctor as soon as possible.
9. Keep pesticides in the container in which you bought them. Insect spray, if stored in cool drink bottles can tempt a young child to drink.
   KEEP THE LABEL ON THE CONTAINER.
10. **KEEP PESTICIDES OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN AT ALL TIMES.**
    Keep pellets, dusts, etc., away from feed used for poultry and other animals.
11. **SNAIL AND SLUG KILLERS ARE ATTRACTIVE TO DOGS AND POULTRY.**
    Never keep these packets on the floor where domestic animals are bound to find them.
12. **ARSENIC POISONING**
    Beware of burning on open-fires or barbecues "timber off-cuts" that have been treated with "copper-chromium-arsenic" preparations, usually used to preserve and protect timber from white ants, etc. There is a danger of inhaling arsenic compounds in the smoke, also barbecued meat could become contaminated. Timber treated with this preparation can be recognised by its apple green colour.

COMMON POISONOUS PLANTS

Plant	Toxic Part	Symptoms
AFRICAN MILK BUSH (Synadenium grantii)	All parts	The milky sap causes irritation of mucous surfaces, vomiting, diarrhoea and sometimes convulsions.
AGAPANTHUS (Agapanthus orientalis)	Leaves	Sticky acid sap causes severe ulceration of the mouth. May also cause acute skin irritation.
ANGEL'S TRUMPET (Datura arborea)	All parts especially Fruit seeds flowers leaves	Dryness of throat, increasing thirst in early stage. Disturbance of vision, giddiness, flushing of face, sometimes headache, restlessness and staggering. Pupils of eyes dilated, quick heart rate. Delirium changes to low muttering type exhaustion. Coma. Death.
ARUM LILY (Zantedeschia aethiopica)	All parts	When eaten causes swelling of tongue and throat and severe illness. Contains sharp crystals of oxalate and an unknown toxin.
AUTUMN CROCUS (Colchicum autumnale)	All parts	Gastro-intestinal distress, respiratory paralysis, renal damage, death from exhaustion.
AZALEA or RHODODENDRON (Rhododendron spp.)	All parts	Produces nausea, vomiting, depression, difficult breathing, prostration, coma. Poisonings rare.
BIRD OF PARADISE (Poinciana gilliesii)	Pods seeds	Vomiting, and diarrhoea.
BLACK LOCUST (Robinia pseudoacacia)	All parts	Gastro-intestinal distress. Coldness of extremities, heart irregularities, dilation of pupils.

COMMON POISONOUS PLANTS

Plant	Toxic Part	Symptoms
BOX (Buxus sempervirens)	Leaves, twigs	Gastro-enteritis, (severe) bloody diarrhoea, respiratory failure. Large amounts may cause convulsions and death.
CAPE LILAC (Melia azedarach)	Fruit	Gastro-intestinal distress, bloody stools, excitement or depression. 6-8 fruit can be fatal to a child.
CASTOR OIL PLANT (Ricinus communis)	Seeds	Restlessness. Cold, clammy skin, thirst, rapid pulse, cramps. May become drowsy, even stuporose, but in many cases consciousness is retained although in state of collapse. The lethal dose for an adult is 2-8 seeds.
CELERY (Apium graveolens)	Tops, seeds	Gastric irritation.
CHERRY AND CHERRY LAUREL (Prunus cerasus and P. laurocerasus)	Seeds, leaves	Contains a compound which releases cyanide when eaten. Also found in kernels of Apricot, Plum, Peach, Pear, Apple and Bitter Almond. Gasping, excitement, prostration often appear within minutes.
CHILLIES (Capsicum annuum)	Fruit	Irritation, enteritis. Diarrhoea.
COTONEASTER (Cotoneaster spp.)	Fruit	Yields hydrocyanic acid, particularly after heavy frost. Makes children violently sick.
CROWN-OF-THORNS (Euphorbia milii)	All parts	Vomiting, purging, delirium preceding death. Latex is irritant causing temporary blindness on contact with eyes. Blistering to skin.
DAFFODIL & JONQUIL (Narcissus Pseudo-narcissus and N. jonquilla)	Bulbs	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, trembling, tetanic convulsions. Death.

COMMON POISONOUS PLANTS

Plant	Toxic Part	Symptoms
DAPHNE (Daphne spp.)	Berries	Fatal. A few berries can kill a child. Burning sensation in mouth. Vomiting, diarrhoea, weak rapid pulse, stupor, weakness and convulsions.
DELPHINIUM OR LARKSPUR (Delphinium sp.)	All parts especially seeds	General weakness. Excitement, collapse, nausea, abdominal pain, respiratory paralysis. Affects the heart. Death can result.
DUMB-CANE (Dieffenbachia spp.) (Elephant Ear)	All parts	Intense burning and irritation of mouth and tongue. Swelling and accumulation of fluid causes difficulty in breathing and swallowing.
DURANTA (Duranta repens)	Fruit	Illness and death in children. Sleepiness, high temperature, rapid pulse and convulsions.
ELDERBERRY (Sambucus niger)	Roots, leaves, shoots, bark	Severe purging, sometimes followed by paralysis and death.
FOXGLOVE (Digitalis purpurea)	All parts, especially seeds	One source of the drug digitalis used to stimulate the heart. Irregular heart beat and pulse. Usually digestive upset and mental confusion. May be fatal in overdose.
HEMLOCK (Conium maculatum)	All parts	Violent, painful, convulsions, weakening muscular power. Loss of sight may occur, gradual paralysis. Children often mistake leaves of hemlock for parsley. May chew seeds or make whistles or peashooters from the stem.
HOLLY (Ilex aquifolium)	Berries	Purgative, state of insensibility.

COMMON POISONOUS PLANTS

Plant	Toxic Part	Symptoms
HORSE CHESTNUT (Aesculus hippocastanum)	Young growth, sprouts, mature nuts, bark, honey	Restlessness, vomiting, diarrhoea, delirium, paralysis. Death from respiratory arrest.
HYACINTH (Hyacinthus orientalis)	All parts	Inflammation of digestive tract, convulsions. Sap could cause dermatitis.
HYDRANGEA (Hydrangea macrophylla)	Leaves and stem. Buds	Gastro-enteritis and nausea.
IVY (Hedera helix)	Leaves, berries	Purgative, excitement, laboured respiration, coma. Has caused skin rash, blistering and inflammation when handled.
JAPANESE PEPPER TREE & PEPPER TREE (Schinus terebinthifolius and S. molle)	Fruit	When ingested in quantity produces throat irritation. Vomiting, diarrhoea. Could cause dermatitis.
JESSAMINE (Cestrum spp.)	All parts	Nausea, dilation of pupils, muscular weakness, hallucinations, increase in heart rate, weakening of pulse, inco-ordination, delirium and coma.
JONQUIL & DAFFODIL (N. jonquilla and Narcissus Pseudo-narcissus)	Bulbs	Nausea. vomiting, diarrhoea, trembling, tetanic convulsions. Death.
LABURNUM (Laburnum anagyroides)	All parts, especially seeds	Vomiting, purging, tetanic spasms and convulsions. Death from asphyxiation if large quantities are eaten.
LANTANA (Lantana camara)	Green berries	Not fully documented, includes muscular weakness and circulatory collapse.
LARKSPUR or DELPHINIUM	All parts especially seeds	General weakness. Excitement. Collapse, nausea, abdominal pain, respiratory paralysis. Affects the heart. Death can result.
LILY-OF-THE-VALLEY (Convallaria majalis)	All parts	Vomiting, purgative, heart irregularities.

COMMON POISONOUS PLANTS

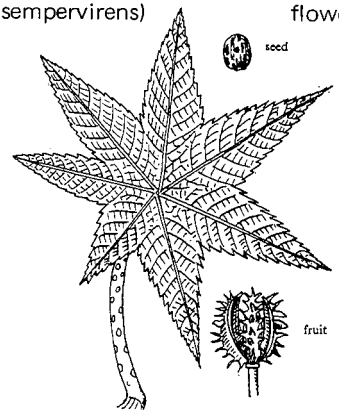
Plant	Toxic Part	Symptoms
MARIGOLD (Calendula Officinale)	Sap.	Can cause contact dermatitis.
MORNING GLORY (Ipomoea violacea)	Seeds	Nausea, and acute chronic psychotic reactions follow ingestion.
NAKED LADY (Euphorbia tirucalli)	All parts	Vomiting, purging, delirium, death. Latex is irritant, causes temporary blindness on contact with eyes. Blistering to skin.
NARCISSUS, DAFFODIL & JONQUIL (Pseudo-narcissus and N. jonquilla)	Bulbs	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, trembling, tetanic convulsions. Death.
NIGHTSHADE (Solanum nigrum)	All parts, especially unripe berries	Intense digestive disturbance. Affects nervous system.
OLEANDER (Nerium oleander)	All parts	Extremely poisonous. Affects heart and pulse. Usually causes digestive upset and mental confusion. Ingestion of one leaf or one flower can be fatal to a child.
PEPPER TREE & JAPANESE PEPPER TREE (Schinus terebinthifolius and S. molle)	Fruit	When ingested in quantity produces throat irritation, vomiting, diarrhoea. Could cause dermatitis.
POINSETTIA (Euphorbia pulcherrima)	Leaves, stalk, sap.	Severe nausea if swallowed. Extreme irritation to skin and eyes from latex sap.
POISON IVY (Toxicodendron radicans)	All parts except pollen	Contact with broken parts or bruised parts of plant causes severe dermatitis. Ingestion of leaves and fruit causes serious gastric upset, even death.
POTATO (Solanum tuberosum)	Sprouts, green tubers, fruit	Apathy, drowsiness, trembling, progressive weakness or paralysis, loss of sensation, stupefaction, gastro-intestinal disturbance, blood stained urine, renal damage.

COMMON POISONOUS PLANTS

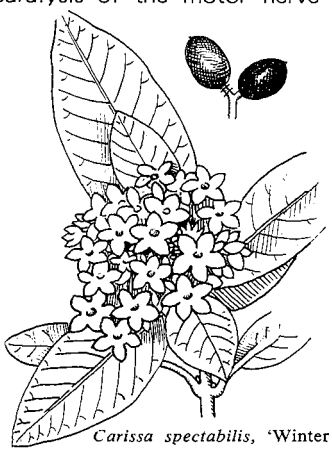
Plant	Toxic Part	Symptoms
PRIVET (Ligustrum spp.)	Fruit, leaves	Vomiting, diarrhoea, weak pulse, sub-normal temperature, coldness of body, circulatory collapse, convulsions may occur. Can cause fatal poisonings.
RHODODENDRON (Rhododendron spp.)	All parts	Produces nausea, vomiting, depression, difficult breathing, prostration, coma. Poisonings rare.
RHUBARB (Rheum rhaponticum)	Leaf, blade	Staggering, abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhoea, impaired clotting of blood, coma. Death can occur.
RHUS, SCARLET & POISON IVY (Toxicodendron succedaneum and T. radicans)	All parts	Severe irritation and blistering of skin. Intense swelling of face which may spread to other parts is characteristic.
SNOW-ON-THE-MOUNTAIN (Euphorbia marginata)	All parts	Vomiting, purging and delirium. It may cause death. Latex is irritant causing temporary blindness on contact with eyes. Blistering of skin.
SWEET PEA Lathyrus odoratus (L. sativus)	Seeds	Pain in the back. Stiffness of legs. Wasting of muscles.
TOADSTOOL (Amanita preissii)	All parts	Intoxication (in a few minutes to two hours). Unusual secretion of saliva, sweating, diarrhoea, vomiting and circulatory failure. Mental disturbance, coma and convulsions are characteristic.
THORN APPLE (Datura stramonium) (Jimson Weed)	All parts	Abnormal thirst, distorted sight, delirium, incoherence, coma. May be fatal.
TOMATO (Lycopersicon lycopersicum)	Foliage	Apathy, drowsiness, trembling, progressive weakness or paralysis, loss of sensation, stupefaction, gastro-intestinal disturbance, blood stained urine, renal damage.

COMMON POISONOUS PLANTS

Plant	Toxic Part	Symptoms
VIOLET, SWEET (Viola odorata)	Leaf, seed, root	Vomiting and diarrhoea.
WINTER SWEET (Carissa spectabilis)	All parts	Severe gastro-intestinal irritation with digitalis-like cardiac effects.
WISTERIA (Wisteria spp.)	Pods, seeds	Mild to severe gastro-enteritis, vomiting, abdominal pains and diarrhoea.
YELLOW JESSAMINE (Gelsemium sempervirens)	Plant, mainly roots and flowers	Depression, muscular weakness, convulsions and paralysis of the motor nerve endings.



Ricinus Communis, 'Castor-oil Plant'

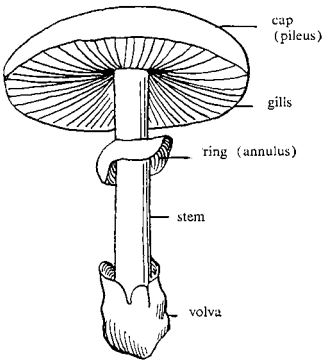


Carissa spectabilis, 'Winter Sweet'

Appreciation is extended to Mr T. E. H. Aplin, Botanist, Department of Agriculture, W.A., Mr B. Elliot, Chief Pharmacist, Princess Margaret Hospital, W.A., and Mr W. M. Griffiths, Principal Pharmacist, Public Health Department, W.A., for their co-operation in checking the material when compiling this booklet.

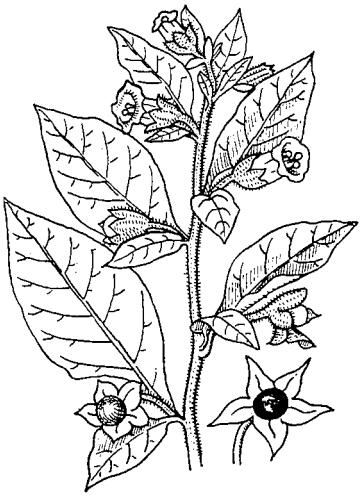
Amanita phalloides (Vaill. ex Fr.) Secretan

'Death Cap,' 'Destroying Angel.'



Amanita phalloides—
showing structure of a mushroom

Digitalis purpurea, 'Foxglove'



Atropa belladonna,
'Deadly Nightshade'

Solanum nigrum, 'Black Nightshade'

POISON PLANTS IN THE GARDEN

T. E. H. Aplin, Western Australian Herbarium

A number of commonly grown garden plants are known to be toxic when eaten, and many local home gardens may have five or six of them present. Many plant species which are known to cause skin ailments are also commonly grown in gardens.

To be grown so commonly these plants must have a useful purpose or great horticultural appeal and it is not suggested that they should not be grown. It is important, however, that their dangers are known and that children in particular are warned of these dangers. Stock owners should be aware of the hazards of allowing stock to browse in gardens and of disposing of toxic garden clippings where stock may have access to them.

Poison plants have been known to man since very early times. The ancient Greeks and Romans were acquainted with them as were the earlier Indian and Chinese civilizations.

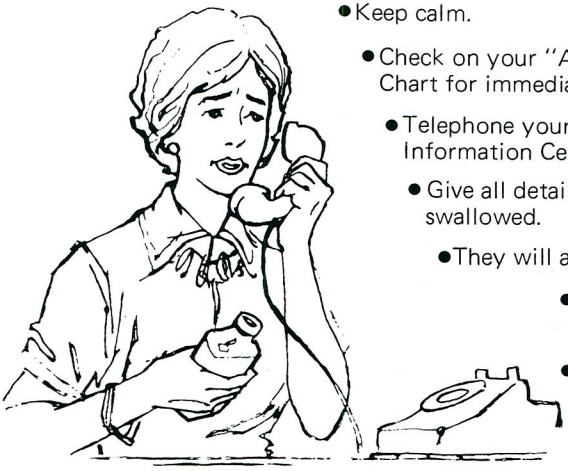
Many of the "primitive cultures" of our present-day world possess a knowledge of poison plants which they make use of in arrow poisons, fish poisons, hallucinogenic drugs used in religious rites, love potions and in a host of medicinal preparations. Many of these plants are poisonous to humans when taken in excess.

Through the ages, poison plants have, for one reason or another, been cultivated as garden subjects, the world over. These plants present a hazard to very young children who have not learned of the dangers of chewing plants. Cases of plant poisonings, in modern society, are most prevalent among the very young. Children have to be protected by keen vigilance to ensure that they do not chew at poison plants. They must be told of the dangers of poisonous garden plants.

Toxic substances contained in many garden plants may be harmful to humans when touched or poisonous when eaten. Those substances present in plants which cause harm when handled may act as a corrosive, an irritant, or through an allergic reaction. When ingested these plants cause gastro-intestinal upsets. Those plants which are poisonous only upon ingestion may affect a person in a variety of ways, depending upon what type of toxic substance or substances are present in the plant, and upon how much material is ingested. The effect may be on the heart, the nervous system, the alimentary system, the respiratory system, or upon one or more of the organs.

When a plant causes harmful effects with handling, or when one suspects that a plant that has been ingested may be poisonous, it is highly desirable to seek immediate medical advice or treatment. It is also important to take a specimen of the offending plant to the attending medical practitioner. The correct botanical identification of the incriminated plant, and what is known of its toxic nature, could assist considerably in deciding the treatment to be given.

What if an Accidental Poisoning Does Happen?



- Keep calm.
- Check on your "Accidental Poisoning—First Aid Advice' Chart for immediate first aid treatment.
- Telephone your doctor, or local hospital, or Poisons Information Centre.
- Give all details—read the label of the substance swallowed.
- They will advise what action to take.
- Check the label for an antidote. Follow the instructions carefully.
- If you go to the doctor's office or hospital, take the poison container or sample of plant with you. This will save time making tests.

Telephone (direct lines)

Poisons Information Centre

METROPOLITAN CALLS 381 1177
COUNTRY CALLS (Local call fee only) 008 119 244

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