

HEALTH DEPARTMENT - TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO  
**BEWARE POISON**

Every year about (20) families in Trinidad and Tobago are bereaved by accidental poisoning of children who eat or drink substances of poisonous nature left lying around carelessly in the home. Most of these cases occur in children between the ages of one (1) and four (4) years.

*Poisonous substances which are usually kept in homes include:*

<b>ASPIRIN AND OTHER PAIN RELIEVERS</b>	<b>CAMPHOR</b>
<b>LAXATIVES</b>	<b>ALCOHOL</b>
<b>LINAMENTS</b>	<b>WINTER GREEN OIL</b>
<b>ANTISEPTICS</b>	<b>NAIL POLISH REMOVER</b>
<b>HOME DRESSING SETS</b>	<b>SEDATIVES</b>

*In addition to those stated above it is usual to find in kitchens, washrooms, or gardens such other poisonous substances as:*

<b>LYE</b>	<b>LIQUID DETERGENTS</b>
<b>DRAIN CLEANER</b>	<b>KEROSENE</b>
<b>BLEACH LIQUID</b>	<b>FUEL OIL</b>
<b>GASOLINE</b>	<b>ACID</b>
<b>LIGHTER FUEL</b>	<b>RAT POISON</b>
<b>FURNITURE POLISH</b>	<b>INSECTICIDES</b>
<b>FLOOR POLISH</b>	<b>WEED KILLER</b>

A mouthful of any of the above-mentioned substances can either kill a small child or make it very ill.

*To prevent accidental poisoning of children:*

1. Keep all items of poisonous nature in a locked cupboard or out of reach of small children.
2. All containers with poisons should be clearly labelled so that contents could not be mistaken for milk, sweetdrink, salt or any other item of food.
3. *Do not put* poisonous liquids into sweetdrink/beer bottles/ bottles normally used for beverages even though there might be labels on the bottles: children who cannot read can easily be misled.
4. All poisonous substances for which you have no further use should be burnt, buried or washed away and should never be placed in a dust bin or where, children can get at them
5. *Do not* take labels off poison containers. Read instructions carefully. Ask your Pharmacist for the name of the drug he is selling you.
6. *Do not* keep prescription drugs more than one (1) year they can deteriorate and become not only useless but harmful as well.

***It is your responsibility to protect your child from poison.***