

Be safe this season!

Holiday Hazards

Holiday celebrations can bring children in contact with many potential hazards. Keep children safe by keeping hazards and poisons out of reach.

MEDICATIONS: Make sure visitors put their medications in a locked area where children can't get them.

HOLLY LEAVES and BERRIES: The leaves and crushed pits are poisonous if a large amount is swallowed. Eating a few berries can cause vomiting, cramps and diarrhea.

MISTLETOE: Vomiting, diarrhea, high blood pressure and convulsions can occur if berries are swallowed.

HOLIDAY TREES: The evergreens are non-toxic with the exception of the Yew, which has red cup-like fruits on its branches. The leaves and seed pits are toxic. Be careful what is added to the water in the tree stand. Pets may drink it and some preservatives are toxic.

BATTERIES: Small batteries can cause blockages if lodged in the ear, nose, throat, stomach or intestines. Acid burns can occur if batteries open inside the body.

TOY RECALLS: Check for alerts at: www.parents.com or <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/category/toy.html>

CHOKING HAZARDS: Children under 4 years of age have small airways and underdeveloped muscles, which leads to difficulty coughing up objects. Keep toddlers away from hotdogs, grapes, nuts, hard candy, marshmallows, popcorn, chewing gum, latex balloons, coins, marbles, small balls, toys with small parts and button batteries.



Mistletoe



Holly



Holiday Trees



Pets

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Ornaments



Tinsel



Bubble Lights



Garland



Liquor



Perfumes

HOLIDAY TREE ORNAMENTS: Antique or imported ornaments may have lead-based paint which would be a hazard if ingested.

POINSETTIA: This plant is not very toxic, but the sap can be irritating. If a piece has been chewed, clear child's mouth of plant material and offer something to drink.

ANGEL HAIR: This tree decoration is made of finely spun glass and can cause irritation to skin, eyes and throat. When handling, wear gloves and avoid contact with eyes, as eye damage may occur if particles become embedded or rubbed into the eyes.

SNOW GLOBES: The "snow" is calcium carbonate, which is non-toxic. The liquid can be water, glycerin or an extremely toxic product called ethylene glycol. Pets have been poisoned after licking fluid from a broken snow globe.

TINSEL: These shiny icicles can cause airway or intestinal blockage if eaten by children or pets.

BUBBLE LIGHTS: These lights contain a poisonous liquid called methylene chloride that can be a danger if fluid from several lights is swallowed.

ALCOHOL: Ethanol found in liquor, perfume, mouthwash or hand sanitizers can be poisonous to children. After just a couple of swallows, it may cause a drop in the blood sugar, leading to confusion, convulsions or coma.