

Summer Safety Tips

Be Poison Smart!SM

With summer, comes warm weather, and days of outdoor fun. Keep your summer enjoyable—and safe. Be on the lookout for these poisoning hazards—

Food poisoning: Common bacterial food poisoning can cause stomach cramping, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea; flourishing in foods left sitting out. Difficult to detect, these bacteria can be present even when the food looks and smells edible. During summer's warm days, always keep foods either hot or cold! When handling raw chicken, wash all utensils used, and one's hands, in hot soapy water. With proper cooking and refrigeration, your family can be protected from food poisoning's sickening effects.

Fireworks: Fourth of July celebrations would not be the same without fireworks. However, burning snake coils and sparklers produce lung and eye irritating smoke. Severe burns can result when picking up newly set off firecrackers. Exploding cherry bombs and firecrackers cause extensive injuries. Children chewing on them can become ill. Keep children at a safe distance from fireworks. Always have an adult light fireworks only in open outdoor areas.

Insects: Fleas: During the summer, fleas can plague family pets. Toxic shampoos and pesticides are used to treat infected animals and infested houses. Follow package directions carefully. Wear gloves while bathing or dipping your pet. After using a flea bomb, ventilate the house for several hours. Never mix or store any pesticide in a food or drink container. Keep these toxic products locked up and out of children's reach.

Ticks: Ticks live in woods and where high weeds grow, attaching to people and animals skin and clothing. After a walk, check body and clothing thoroughly for ticks. Give special attention to feet, legs, waist, hairline and scalp. Remove carefully, using tweezers. Clean surface with soap and water. **Bees, wasps and hornets:** avoid the itching and possible allergic reaction to stings by these insects—keep trash cans clean and covered; keep away from insect nests. If stung, call the Poison Center for first aid instructions.

Lawn, garden chemicals, gasoline: Keep children off lawns newly sprayed with weed killers, pesticides or fertilizer. Store these chemicals as well as gasoline used for lawnmowers in an area off limits to children. When using outdoor torches and candles, be sure to keep lamp oil out of sight and out of reach of young children.



For Every Child. For Every Reason.[®]
Columbus, Ohio



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