

# **Poison**Prevention**Press**

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## MPC Poison Safety Info on the Go

Get important poison safety tips and other information wherever you are.

#### Website:

#### mdpoison.com

- News and current trends
- First aid for poisonings
- Educational materials

#### Facebook:

@MarylandPoisonCenter

#### Twitter:

@MDPoisonCtr

e-Antidote blog: blog.mdpoison.com

<u>Diog.iiiapoisoiiiee</u>

YouTube:

**Maryland Poison Center** 

Text "POISON" to 797979 to save and share the Poison Center contact card.

#### Did you know that...

- 68% of exposures reported to the MPC in 2019 were unintentional?
- Doctors, nurses, and paramedics call the MPC for advice on treating poisonings and overdoses?

Follow the MPC on Facebook & Twitter

### Don't Search...Just Call!

New technology is released regularly, and society has become so dependent on all of it. If we want to go somewhere, we use our phone's map or a GPS device. If we want to listen to music, we use our phone or smart speaker. If we need to know the definition of a word, we either reach for our computer, tablet, or smart phone or ask our smart speaker. No matter what we have a question about, our first thought is to search the internet.

When using search engines to find any information on the internet, numerous possible hits become available. But a lot of work goes into finding the answer you need - you have to sort through all of the hits that populate to find the answer you are looking for from a source you can trust. Think about how many buttons you usually have to push to find a trustworthy answer. Do you think you can get immediate, accurate information after pressing just 10 buttons?

When it comes to someone using a medicine or household product in the wrong way or in the wrong amount, you can get accurate information in seconds by pressing 10 buttons: 800-222-1222.

Once you dial this number, you are connected right away to a poison expert—a pharmacist or nurse with extensive specialized training—who will give you all of the information you need to help the person; information specific to your situation.

The information found on the internet is often general. It could apply to some situations, but maybe not yours. Sometimes, it is not correct or may be outdated. Some information might also come from blog posts written by people who have little or no knowledge of the topic. Some people call the poison center after trying to find answers on the internet, because the information they found was scary or confusing.

The best advice to follow if you think a poisoning or overdose has happened: don't search the internet, just call the poison center. Watch our new video to learn more- <a href="https://youtu.be/wMVNRgfrbaw">https://youtu.be/wMVNRgfrbaw</a>

The poison center can be reached by calling the nationwide number anytime day or night. The staff who answer the phones are truly the experts for poisonings and overdoses. They go through extensive training to become Certified Specialists in Poison Information (CSPI). They will ask callers a few questions to get a better understanding of what has happened. Poison centers also take information calls to help you prevent a poisoning or overdose from happening in the future. With the information given, the CSPI will provide callers with advice tailored to their specific situation, and put their mind at ease. For more information on what to expect when you call, head over to our website and click the "What to Expect When You Call" button

If you have a question about a poisoning or overdose, know that our poison experts are a phone call away. Just dial 1-800-222-1222.