

Holiday Safety

Why are kids at risk during the holiday season?

The holidays are a time for visiting and celebrating, but many holiday items may be dangerous for children.

How can I keep my child safe during the holidays?

Fire Safety:

- Water live trees regularly to keep them from becoming a fire hazard. Turn off tree lights every night before going to bed.
- Keep candles out of reach and extinguish them when you leave a room or go to sleep.
- Talk to children about both indoor and outdoor fire safety.

Keep Out of Reach: Accidental poisoning in children increases during the holidays.

- Keep purses, coats, and bags that contain medicine or other hazards out of children's reach.
- If you must smoke/vape, do so outdoors.
- Empty unfinished alcoholic drinks so kids don't drink them.

Toys:

- Choose toys that are age-safe and read the safety warnings. Toys with small parts can be choking hazards. Encourage older kids to keep their toys (like Legos) away from toddlers.
- Button batteries can be extremely dangerous if swallowed. Secure screws on toys with button batteries. If a child swallows a button battery, get to the Emergency Room immediately. Recycle or dispose of old batteries at drop off areas.

If a child ingests something they shouldn't have, call the Blue Ridge Poison Control Center (1-800-222-1222). They will advise you on what to do next. This service is free, confidential, open 24 hours a day, and offers interpreters. Visit med.virginia.edu/brpc for more information.



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