

CHEMICAL-DRUG-PESTICIDE

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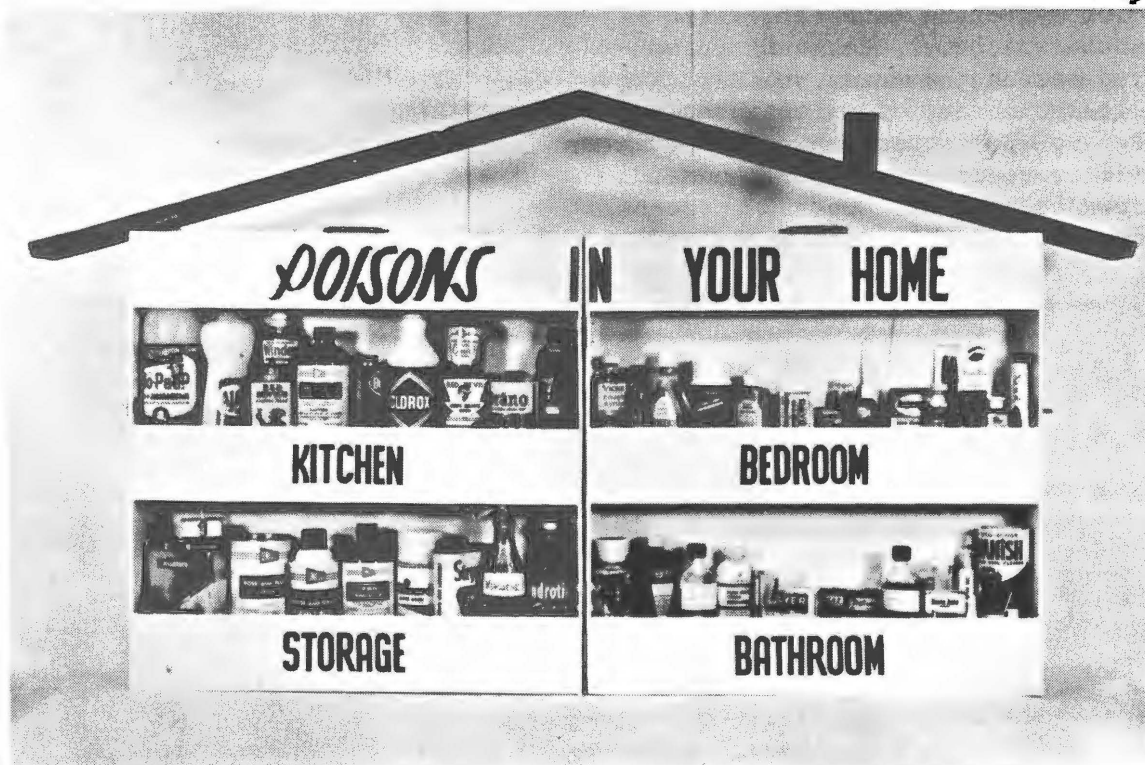
POISONS IN YOUR HOME

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Is This Your Home?

You don't allow your toddler to play with a sharp carving knife or with a loaded gun. Of course not -- these things are dangerous. But what about the unguarded poisons in your home?

Each year approximately half a million children swallow a potentially poisonous substance found in or around their homes. There are about 250,000 such products available for home use, according to the American Medical Association.

Let's look at the next pages and see what some of these products are and where we are most likely to find them.

Kitchen Killers

The kitchen is probably the most dangerous room in the house. Over one third of all accidental home poisonings occur there. A thoughtful look at the average kitchen will show the reason why.

The cabinet under the kitchen sink is usually the place where most hazards lurk. This cabinet is a convenient storage spot for many things, but it is also a wonderful mysterious cave for little children to explore. Detergents, cleansers, lye, bleach, ammonia, polish, waxes, glass cleaner, disinfectants, spot removers, shoe polish and ant and roach spray kill or seriously injure hundreds of children each year. Over 80 percent of these children are under 5 years of age.



Storage Villains

The storage area, garage, basement, or shed provides a hiding place for untold hazards. Gasoline for the mower, kerosine, turpentine, and paint remover are all familiar dangerous items. To make matters worse, these liquids may be stored in soft drink bottles. How appealing to a small child who associates the size and shape of the bottle with a cool refreshing drink. A little gasoline or kerosine in the lungs can cause a type of pneumonia for which there is no known cure.

An opened can of motor oil is in easy reach and right next to it may be a jug, jar, or bottle of auto antifreeze.

Have you noticed that many antifreeze products look just like grape soda? But now a new challenge. Wouldn't it be great fun to play in that half-empty sack of cement or that pot of roofing pitch? Dangerous fun - and messy too!

Rose sprays and dusts, weed killers, insecticides, and ant and roach bombs are frequently found in these unlocked storage areas also. Danger is ever-present in open storage spaces.



Bedroom Poisons

Junior is in bed for his nap and Mommy has closed the door. Does he stay in bed? Not always. Little folks have a wonderful curiosity, and just look at all those intriguing boxes, bottles, and tubes for him to open, smell, taste, and play with. Flavored aspirin (sometimes you tell him it's candy), tranquilizers, nail polish and remover, sleeping pills, perfume, eye shadow, and mothballs in the closet -- just to name a few.

But don't forget Grandma's bedroom either. She may not see too well without her glasses and might take a sleeping pill instead of the pill for her high blood pressure, or drink some poison ivy lotion instead of cough syrup.

Over one quarter of all home accidental poison ingestions occurs in the bedroom.



Bathroom Hazards

The bathroom is a necessary, but rather dangerous place. Nearly one out of every five accidental poisonings occurs there. Drain cleaner, ammonia, bleach and disinfectants are in the cabinet under the wash bowl. On the shelf we find hair spray, perhaps some hair tint, lysol and an air freshening aerosol. Then that unlocked medicine chest. Aspirin, iodine, candy-coated laxative tablets, an assortment of prescriptions (some 2 years old), and a preparation to remove corns. POISON means nothing to a little child who can't read. We can read, but let's be honest -- how many times have you men tried to clean your teeth with shaving cream; or ladies, have you ever used an aerosol antiperspirant in place of hair spray? Many containers look alike but the products are vastly different. Did you ever notice that the glittery beads in some time-release cold capsules look just like cake decorating sugar?



Ways To Prevent Tragedy

1. Read and heed labels and written instructions on containers before using household chemicals, drug products, and pesticides.
2. Keep detergents, ammonia, bleach, and other potentially harmful household products on high shelves, not under the sink. Keep deadly poisons absolutely out of the reach of children, preferably in a locked cabinet. If possible, keep medicines and drugs in cabinets which can be locked or which have lockable compartments. Don't take medicines in front of children or refer to their medicine as candy. Don't take medicine in the dark.
3. Keep all chemical, drug, and pesticide products in their original containers. NEVER put potentially harmful materials in food or drink containers.
4. Dispose of empty containers at once. Put them in the trash or bury them at least 18 inches deep in an area where water supplies will not become contaminated. Paper containers can be burned; but remember, some chemicals produce harmful fumes when burned. Never burn herbicide containers. Dispose of unused portions of pesticide sprays. Discard all drugs and medicines which are old, or are no longer needed, by flushing them down the drain and putting the empty container in the trash. Don't burn aerosol cans - they usually explode.

Will you be guilty of household homicide—or will your home be a safe place to live?

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