

Automatic Dishwasher Soap Poisoning

Automatic dishwasher soap poisoning refers to illness that occurs when you swallow soap used in automatic dishwashers or when the soap contacts the face.

This is for information only and not for use in the treatment or management of an actual poison exposure. If you have an exposure, you should call your local emergency number!

REFERENCE FROM A.D.A.M.

Poisonous Ingredient

Automatic dishwasher products contain various soaps. Potassium carbonate and sodium carbonate are the most common.

Where Found

Automatic dishwasher soaps.

Symptoms

- Eyes, ears, nose, and throat
 - Severe pain in the throat
 - Severe pain or burning in the nose, eyes, ears, lips, or tongue
 - Loss of vision
 - Throat [swelling](#) (which may also cause breathing difficulty)
- Heart and blood circulation
 - Low blood pressure -- develops rapidly
 - Collapse
 - Severe change in blood acid levels, which can lead to organ damage
- Lungs
 - [Breathing difficulty](#) (from inhalation)
- Skin
 - Irritation
 - Burns
 - Necrosis (tissue death) in the skin or underlying tissues
- Stomach and intestines
 - Severe [abdominal pain](#)
 - Vomiting, may be bloody
 - Burns of the esophagus (food pipe)
 - Blood in the stool

Outlook (Prognosis)

How well a patient does depends on the amount of poison swallowed and how quickly treatment was received. The faster a patient gets medical help, the better the chance for recovery.

Swallowing such poisons can have severe effects on many parts of the body. Damage can continue to occur to the esophagus and stomach for several weeks after the product is swallowed. Death may occur up to a month after the poisoning.

However, most cases of swallowing dishwasher soap are relatively nontoxic. Over the counter household products are specifically made to be relatively safe to persons and the environment.

<http://www.nytimes.com/health/guides/poison/automatic-dishwasher-soap-poisoning/overview.html>