

# Holiday Hazard Tips

**Be Poison Smart!™**

Holidays mean hustle and bustle and changes in household routines. During the busyness of holiday shopping, visiting, decorating, Be Poison Smart!, protect young children from a tragic poisoning during this joyous time of the year.

## **Plants:**

Holly and Mistletoe are poisonous, especially the berries. Wrap mistletoe in netting before hanging or use artificial plants. Though Poinsettia plants are not poisonous, they can cause stomach upsets when a young child, attracted to their vivid color, chews on their leaves and petals.

## **Evergreens:**

Pines, spruces, firs and junipers can be harmful if eaten; even small amounts may cause mouth and stomach irritation. Handling greens may produce skin rashes. Swallowing pinecone pieces can cause choking. Preservatives used to keep trees from drying out can contain toxic chemicals.

## **Ornaments, Oil Candles, Button batteries:**

Holiday bulbs and lights made of metal, plastic, glass or wood may cause injury. Bubble lights hold a poisonous fluid. Oil candles sometimes have the same color as fruit drinks and so appeal to young children. They contain hydrocarbons, which can have a deadly effect when swallowed. Batteries used for cameras, watches can cause skin and throat burns.

## **Alcoholic Drinks:**

Just a couple of swallows of alcohol can poison children, because their small bodies don't need as much volume to produce effects on their central nervous systems. Empty glasses and punch bowls as soon as guests leave so children are not tempted to drink beverages meant only for adults.

## **Perfume, Cologne, Aftershave:**

Do not leave these gifts opened and on display under the holiday tree. Perfume and cologne products contain alcohol and may look like something to drink to a child, so Be Poison Smart!, put these attractive gifts out of sight and out of reach of small children.

## **The Holiday Turkey:**

Be sure to cook turkey thoroughly, wash hands and utensils well after handling raw poultry, to prevent food poisoning. Serve hot foods hot and cold foods cold.

Safe food handling information can be obtained from your local County Cooperative Extension Service or the Butterball Turkey Talkline at 1-800-323-4848.



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



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