

# Autumn Awareness Tips

**Be Poison Smart!™**

When leaves start to fall and the air has a chill, be on the lookout for these hazards—

**Carbon Monoxide:** Gas furnaces, stoves, wood stoves and kerosene heaters can produce carbon monoxide, a toxic, odorless, colorless gas. Stomach and flu symptoms, sleepiness and vomiting can all be signs of carbon monoxide poisoning. Check your gas furnace or stove. If it is not working properly, turn it off and call the gas company for an inspection. Use kerosene or propane heaters only in well ventilated areas.

**Antifreeze:** May contain up to 95% ethylene glycol, an extremely toxic substance. Antifreeze's bright green or blue color and sweet taste attracts small children and pets. Store only in original container in a locked cabinet. When using, keep children out of the area. Clean up any spilled on the ground; just a few licks can fatally poison a pet.

**Mushrooms and Berries:** Their bright colors and interesting shapes are appealing to curious children. Know the toxicity of the plants in your yard. Be very cautious about eating mushrooms found in the wild. Poisonous and non-poisonous mushrooms can look so similar often only an expert can tell the difference. Contact the Poison Center for a list of toxic and non-toxic plants.

**Spider Bites:** The rare black widow spider and the brown recluse spider are the only poisonous species found in Ohio. Their bite can cause serious illness. The bite of other spiders can cause swelling, redness and irritation. Spiders like hidden, dark places, so use caution when cleaning out attics or basements. Shake out clothes and shoes lying on the ground before wearing them. Wear gloves when handling firewood. If bitten, pay attention to the spider's markings for identification and call the Poison Center for treatment advice.

**Halloween:** Check out all treats before eating. Keep only unopened candy. Discard any with holes or tears in the wrapping.



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



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