

Medicines that can poison

By Raising Children Network

Most medicines, including vitamin pills and herbal remedies, can harm your baby or child if taken in large enough quantities. Some can kill your baby or child. The safest way to protect children from accidental poisoning with medicine is to lock all medicines in a child-resistant cabinet in a place that's out of reach.

All of these medicines can harm and even kill your child:

- [morphine](#) and other strong painkillers
- cough and cold medicines, including children's formulas
- [paracetamol](#)
- [antihistamines](#)
- [anticonvulsants](#)
- [antidepressants](#)
- heart and blood-pressure medication
- nicotine patches and other quit-smoking treatments
- antiseptic lotions and liquids
- sleeping tablets
- herbal medicines
- vitamins, especially iron-fortified tablets
- essential oils, such as eucalyptus and tea tree
- iron tablets
- gout and arthritis medications.

did you know

You can call the Poisons Information Centre on 131 126 for more information about poisons - 24-hours a day, from anywhere in Australia.

Rated

(0 ratings)

GLOSSARY

morphine

A medicine used to control severe pain.

paracetamol

A common painkiller often sold under the brand name Panadol, Tylenol and Dymadon. It can be given to children from birth and is safe if the dosage recommendations are followed exactly. It can, however, cause liver damage at relatively small overdose levels.

antihistamines

Medicines that reduce swelling, sneezing and itchiness, which some people experience when they come into contact with substances such as pollen, bee stings and certain foods. These substances can cause the body to produce too much of a hormone called histamine.

anticonvulsants

Medicines used to reduce or prevent seizures (convulsions). In children, anticonvulsants are typically prescribed for conditions such as epilepsy.

antidepressants

Medicines used to treat a range of emotional and mental health disorders.

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