

Poison Prevention Press

November/December 2017

Volume 10, Issue 6

Pets

Don't forget about our furry family members. Some things that are okay for people are not okay for animals. There are even differences between dogs and cats.

- Common in holiday treats, Chocolate and xylitol (a sugar substitute), are toxic to dogs.
- Tinsel is dangerous for cats. It is not a poison hazard, but it can cause severe damage to the cat's intestinal tract if swallowed.
- Liquid potpourri can be harmful to cats with just a few licks. Dogs are less sensitive, but can get sick as well.
- Lilies, holly and mistletoe are toxic to pets even in small amounts.

More information at
[Pet Poison Helpline](#)

Did you know that...

- In 2016, there were 2,163 button battery ingestions involving children <6 years reported to US poison centers resulting in 4 deaths?
- In 2016, foreign bodies (toys, coins, etc) were the 4th most common ingestion in children <6 years reported to the MPC?

Follow the MPC on
[Facebook](#) & [Twitter](#)

Holiday Poison Hazards

The holidays should be a time of joy and family get-togethers. Don't let a mishap with holiday items, medicine or food spoil the festivities. Let's take a look at some poison dangers in the home this season.

Toys and gifts

- Button batteries are found in toys, remote controls and greeting cards. They can cause severe injury when swallowed.
- Science kits can be fun for older children. But some of the items in the kit can be dangerous if swallowed or splashed in the eye.
- Fuel for model racecars can contain methanol. Swallowing as little as a teaspoonful can be dangerous.

Plants and decorations

- Mistletoe and holly berries can cause stomach upset if eaten in large quantities.
- Poinsettias are non-toxic in people and pets. Some minor stomach upset is possible, especially in smaller pets.
- The liquid in bubble lights can be dangerous when swallowed. The body changes the chemical into carbon monoxide.
- Snow globes made in the US usually contain water. But some imported snow globes were found to contain antifreeze.
- Heirloom ornaments and ornaments from other countries can contain lead.
- Cinnamon scented candles, oils and air fresheners can be very irritating to the mouth, skin and eyes.

Food

- Many extracts used in holiday baking contain alcohol. Vanilla has almost as much alcohol as vodka. Lemon, orange, and mint contain even more!
- Cocktails can look like juice to young children. After the guests are gone, make sure you clean up the leftover drinks before going to bed.
- Keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold during parties. Leftovers should be refrigerated within two hours after the meal.
- Egg nog should be made with pasteurized eggs. If alcohol is added, make sure children don't share.

Medicine

- Provide grandparents and other guests a safe place to store their medicine. This should be up, away, and out of sight of young children.
- Cough and cold medicines should be stored up, away, and out of sight...even between doses.

The experts at the MPC are available 24/7 to help with these items and more!

