

Checklist for Preventing Accidental Poisonings

Child care and early learning programs can use this checklist as a guide to help prevent accidental poisonings.



- Post Washington's Poison Center [poster](#) or phone number 1 (800) 222 - 1222 so it is visible.
- Test your carbon monoxide detector(s) monthly.

Keep these items out of children's reach:

- Staff member belongings, such as purses and backpacks.** These may contain items that are poisonous to children, such as cosmetics, personal care products, coins, vitamins, supplements, or medications.
- Emergency 'Grab and Go' bags.** These often contain life-saving medications for children enrolled in care.
- Bleach spray bottles.**
- Cleaning supplies and products with chemicals.** Secure these in a way that prevents accidental spills in an earthquake.

Check areas where hazardous materials or cleaning supplies are stored (cabinets, laundry room, kitchen, etc.)

- Any cleaning products other than bleach must be approved by your licensor prior to use.
- To avoid creating dangerous gases, products containing bleach should never be stored with or nearby:
 - **products containing ammonia.** When mixed they create chloramine gas.
 - **vinegar.** When mixed they create chlorine gas.
- Store chemicals and cleaning supplies separately from food, food preparation areas, and supplies used for cooking or eating.
- Discard expired products or chemicals that are not used in the program.** Visit the [King County Hazardous Waste website](#) for a list of accepted items and collection sites.
- Discard any art supplies that are not labeled "non-toxic" by the manufacturer.
- Consider replacing dish soaps, hand soaps, and laundry detergents with [EPA Safer-Choice Certified](#) products.

Remove these items from classrooms (they could cause injury if swallowed or ingested):

- Push pins, thumbtacks, staples, and magnets** in rooms with children younger than 3 years.
- Expanding gel beads or balls (water beads).**
- Broken toys.** Make sure toys are appropriate for the child's age and development.