

What is Safe Storage?

Safely storing medicine can prevent accidental or intentional medicine-related poisonings. The recommended method of storage will vary depending on each family's make-up and unique needs including the age of the child and other family members and caregivers in the home. Families with children of different ages should use the storage method appropriate for the oldest child in order to protect everyone in the household. **Do not store medicine in a bathroom.** An accident or overdose in a locked room can delay action and may be life-threatening. Identify a safe place for visitors to safely store their medicine when visiting your home.

Families with babies and toddlers

Store medicine in a single location in the home, up high and out of reach and sight of children. If your toddler can climb, consider using a cabinet lock in addition to storing it up high.

Families with young children

Store medicine in a single location in the home, up high and out of reach and sight of children. Store medicine in a locking cabinet or place a cabinet lock on the cabinet. Older children may be able to manipulate cabinet locks. Consider using a medicine lockbox or locking bag if you believe your child can bypass a cabinet lock.

Families with older children, pre-teens, teens, older adults & multigenerational households

Lock up all medicine in a locking bag, lockbox, locking cabinet or safe. Most locking bags and boxes are **not** indestructible and contents may be accessed by cutting or breaking into them. Consider using a safe if your child has previously broken into a locking box or you have concerns that they might do so.

Poison control hotline: 1-800-222-1222

Call the poison center right away if someone in your household has taken the wrong medicine, taken too much medicine or is having unwanted symptoms after taking medicine. **If the person is unconscious or not breathing call 9-1-1.**

