



LAUNDRY DETERGENT PODS POSE RISK

Poison Centers across the country have seen an increase in calls about pediatric exposure to a new formulation of laundry detergent. These new laundry products contain concentrated liquid detergent in a bubble or pod enclosed by a membrane that dissolves when the packet comes in contact with water.

Many of these products are attractive to children because they are brightly colored, soft to touch, and may resemble toys or candy.

Some young children and toddlers who swallow these small packets have become very ill and have required hospitalization. Other children have gotten the product in their eyes, resulting in significant eye irritation.

Usually laundry detergent causes only mild stomach upset or no symptoms at all. With these newer laundry packets the incidence of severe effects have a rapid onset of symptoms. It is still unclear whether the greater incidence of severe effects with the new laundry products is due to their higher concentration or to additional ingredients that are yet unidentified.

The Nebraska Regional Poison Center recommends the following tips:

- Always keep detergents locked up and out of reach of children.
- Follow the specific disposal instructions on the label.
- Do not cut the single unit dose laundry detergents. They are designed to dissolve completely in the machine, even in cold water.
- Handle this product with dry hands only, and remember to close the product container completely after each use to keep out moisture. The film that encases the laundry detergent is designed to dissolve quickly, even in small amounts of water. Store this product away from water.
- Like all other cleaning products, keep single unit dose laundry detergents out of the reach of children and pets between every load to prevent unintended exposure.
- Always ensure re-closable bag or container is tightly sealed during storage.
- As with other laundry products, keep product in its original container with intact labels.
- Store products away from food, as you would with other laundry products.

If you think a child has been exposed to a single unit dose laundry detergent, call the poison center at 1-800-222-1222 immediately. The Registered Nurses at the Poison Center are available 24/7 to answer your calls and questions.