

# Poisoning:

## Early and Pre-Hospital Management Chart

# Poison Information Helpline

of the Western Cape, serving South Africa

# 0861 555 777

Developed by: Tygerberg Poison Information Centre  
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Keep this chart handy so that you know what to do in the event of a poisoning.

Contact the poison information helpline and follow the treatment guidelines for the different categories below.

### In the following exposures :

Do not make the person vomit. Do not give them anything to drink or eat.

Acetone  
Battery (Button)  
Benzine  
Camphorated Oil  
Carbon Tetrachloride  
Disinfectants  
Firelighters  
Insecticides  
Insect Repellents  
Liniments (e.g. wintergreen)  
Metal Cleaners & Polishes  
Nail Polish Removers  
Paraffin  
Paint (Oil)  
Paint Removers (Solvent)  
Pesticides  
Petrol  
Snail Bait  
Thinners  
Turpentine (Mineral)  
Varnish

### In the following exposures:

Do not make the person vomit. Small amounts of water may be given by mouth. Do not try to neutralise the poison.

Ammonia	Fertilisers
Acid	Hair Colourants
Battery Acid	Hair Perms
Bleach	Hair Straighteners
Caustic Soda	Hydrochloric Acid
Cement	Hydrogen Peroxide
Chlorine (for pools)	Mothballs (Naphthalene)
Condy's crystals	Oven Cleaners
Detergents	Paint Removers (Caustic)
Dishwashing Liquids	Potassium Permanganate
Dishwashing Powder (automatic)	Toilet Cleaners
Drain Cleaners	Washing Powder
Dyes (Fabric or Hair)	Washing Soda
Fabric Softener	Weed killers (Herbicides)
	Window (Glass) Cleaners

### In the following exposures:

Do not make the person vomit. Small amounts (half a cup) of water or milk may be given by mouth.

Alcohol  
Calamine lotion  
Cosmetics  
Deodorants  
Fluoride tablets (give milk)  
Glue (contact & other)  
Mercurochrome  
Methylated spirits  
Perfumes  
Plants  
Rat bait (e.g. Rattex)  
Shampoos  
Surgical spirits

### In the following exposures:

Although induction of vomiting is generally not a routine procedure, it may be considered in the fully awake and alert patient if it can be performed within an hour of large ingestions. This can be achieved by giving a glass of lukewarm water, followed by stimulation of the throat by gently inserting a finger or blunt handle of a spoon. Do not persist with this procedure if not initially effective.

Aspirin  
Iron tablets  
Mushrooms—poisonous  
Paracetamol  
Pills  
Tablets  
Iron containing Vitamins

Snake bite, spider bite or scorpion sting: If possible, try to identify the culprit and contact the poison information helpline and **get the patient to a clinic/ hospital as soon as possible.**

**STORE ALL MEDICINES, HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS AND PESTICIDES OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN.** If a poisonous substance comes into contact with the eyes, do not try to neutralise it, just rinse eyes gently with water for 15–20 minutes and get the person to the nearest clinic/hospital. If skin comes into contact with a poisonous substance, wash with soap and water. **Take the container and a sample of the medication or poison or plant or other biological specimen to the clinic or hospital with the patient.**