

Carbon Monoxide

Carbon Monoxide is known as the 'Silent Killer' as you cannot smell it, see it or taste it.

It comes from any appliance that burns oil, solid fuel, wood or gas.

Symptoms of Carbon Monoxide:

Headaches	Dizziness
Nausea	Collapse
Breathlessness	Loss of consciousness

It is very important that your carbon monoxide is situated in the correct place and you MUST follow manufacturer's guidelines.

Also be aware that the battery in your alarm will have a 5 – 7 year guarantee battery and your alarm will need replaced after this time – it is useful to mark a date on your alarm when it will expire from the day of activation.

To protect yourself from carbon monoxide poisoning all boilers and fuel burning appliances MUST be serviced annually using a qualified engineer registered with the appropriate organisation:



Gas Safe Register (gas)
www.gassaferegister.co.uk
Tel: 0800 408 5500



NIACS (all fuels)
Northern Ireland Association
of Chimney Sweeps
www.niacs.co.uk



OFTEC (oil)
Oil Firing Technical Association
www.oftec.org
Tel: 0845 65 85 080



Northern Ireland Coal Advisory
Service (solid fuel)
www.coaladvisoryservice.com
Tel: 0845 712 5300

Button Cell Batteries

What are the dangers?

Lithium batteries react with saliva so that they leak acid within as little as an hour. If a child swallows a battery it can cause severe trauma, such as burning a hole in their throat or stomach or further damage to other internal organs, or even death.

What precautions can I take to protect my child?

Make sure that toys and other products using button cell batteries, such as small electronic devices, have lockable battery compartments. This should mean that they are safe for children to use as the batteries are locked away

Be extra vigilant with items including musical greeting cards, frameless candles and remote controls as they do not have lockable compartments. RoSPA advises that children should not be allowed to have access to these products if the battery compartment is not secure

It is a good idea to ensure that spare batteries are locked away, and used batteries are disposed of correctly.

What should I do if my child swallows a button cell battery?

If your child swallows a button cell battery, seek medical advice immediately. Remember that the saliva in their body will react with the battery and so time is very much of the essence in these cases.



For further advice visit The Health and safety Executive for Northern Ireland website
www.hseni.gov.uk/watchout

We strongly advise parents and carers to learn first aid.
For further information on first aid:

British Red Cross
www.redcross.org.uk

St John's Ambulance
www.sja.org.uk

For further information on Home Safety or for a FREE Home Safety Check please contact your Home Safety team at your local Council.



Project supported by the PHA

Parent Home Safety Information



Falls

Falls are the most common occurring accident for all age groups.

Parents are advised to fit window locks/restrictors to windows, fit stair gates, to refrain from placing car seats and bouncy seats on worktops and to always use the 5 point harness supplied with high chairs.

Change your baby's nappy on the floor to prevent falls from beds, sofas or changing tables.

Poisoning

Toddlers like putting things in their mouth to see what they taste like. They will also find all sorts of ways to reach things they think are sweets.

- Keep all medicines up out of reach and sight or locked away from young children.
- Remove all poisonous substances such as perfumes, cleaning products and toiletries from bathrooms and bedrooms.
- Do not decant chemicals into drink containers as these are attractive to children.
- Store all household chemicals and cleaning materials out of sight of children and in cupboards with child resistant closures or locks.

Burns & Scalds

A child's skin is 15 times thinner than an adult's and will burn or scald much more easily.

- Do not drink hot beverages whilst holding your baby or child as a hot drink can scald up to 20 minutes after it has been made.
- Test bath water with your elbow before putting your toddler in. Always run cold water first and remember taps will remain hot.
- Switch off hair straighteners and immediately put out of reach of children. Ensure children cannot grab hold of trailing cables. Straighteners can cause severe burns and take 40 minutes to cool down completely.

Blind Cord Strangulation

The loop in blind cords can go around your child's neck, leading to strangulation. You can reduce this risk and ensure cords and chains are pulled taut by fitting cleats or chain tidys.

- Make sure all cords and chains are always secured and out of reach.
- Do not place your child's cot, bed, highchair or playpen near a window or door blind.
- Do not place baby monitors within reach of your child's cot or bed.

Choking and Suffocation

Babies naturally grasp anything and put it in their mouths.

Choking

Any items smaller than a 50p piece such as buttons, beads, grapes or balloons can cause a child to choke.

- Toys – Accidents happen when young toddlers and babies play with older children's toys as they may contain small parts (smaller than a 50p piece) which can break off when children place them in their mouth.
- Babies under 1 year old should not be given toys with long hair or fur which can cause choking

Parents should pay attention to the toy packaging ensuring the toy is CE marked. The packaging will recommend the age of child as many toys are not suitable for a child under 3 years old.

Suffocation

Changing bags contain a number of items which are dangerous to children such as creams, medicines and nappy sacs. Nappy sacs have been known to be inhaled by children and this causes suffocation and choking.

E-cigarettes

Lethal liquid and fire risk

The Public Health Agency is warning that the contents of e-cigarettes are highly toxic, presenting a particularly serious risk to children and pets if ingested, inhaled or if contact occurs with the skin or eyes. There have been a number of children poisoned by ingesting refill liquid within the last four years and one child's death has been reported.

Some e-cigarette refills are made with sweet-smelling chemicals and packaged in brightly-coloured tubes that could be attractive to babies and young children.

The amount of nicotine in refills can vary considerably between products and from batch to batch. Ingesting a dose of 40mg of nicotine can be fatal for an adult, so a fatal dose for a child would be substantially less.

There have also been reports of e-cigarettes exploding or the chargers causing a fire.

E-cigarettes and refills must be kept out of reach of babies and children, and anyone who has swallowed e-cigarette liquid should be taken immediately to an Emergency Department.

Garden Safety

3 cms of water can drown a small child. Be careful around the paddling pool.

- Be aware of items that can fill up with rain water eg. plant pots, sand pit lids.
- Be sure to close and lock garden gates
- Sheds and garages should be locked at all times as children could gain access to sharp objects and poisons.
- Ensure your fence is secured with no gaps to allow children to play safely.
- Lawn Mowers and electrical equipment should be stored out of reach
- Be aware which plants are poisonous eg. plant bulbs or plants with berries.
- Place climbable play equipment onto on to a soft surface such as grass or soft mat.

Liquitabs

Liquitabs (Liquid Detergent Capsules) are attractive, brightly coloured cleaning products used in washing machines and dishwashers. Children, especially those under five years can easily mistake these products for jelly-like sweets.

Store liquitabs out of children's reach in a high locked cupboard. Cupboard locks or catches should be fitted in the home.

- Do not rely on the packaging or the product lid being closed as your only means of prevention. Young children can be determined and skilled at opening items and parents often underestimate their child's ability to open things.
- Do not store liquitabs under the sink, worktop or by the appliance.
- Do not preload your appliances with a liquitab until you are ready to turn them on.
- Be careful when visiting grandparents' or friends' homes as they may not apply the same rules.
- Look out for other poisonous substances in the home such as medication, cleaning products, garden or farm chemicals, tobacco products and alcohol.