

## *Spring Cleaning and Child Safety*

Even innocent looking items like household plants and vitamin supplements can poison a child in less than a minute. Commonly used products such as cosmetics, detergents and medicines can be fatal to young children if left within their reach. Annually, more than 1.1 million unintentional poisonings among children ages 5 and under are reported to the U.S poison control centers. Children ages 5 and under are particularly vulnerable to poisonings due to their curiosity and natural desire to put everything into their mouths. Heather Paul, PH.D., executive director of the National SAFE KIDS Campaign, said, "Many poisonings can be prevented if parents simply lock poisonous products out of children's reach".

**The National SAFE KIDS Campaign recommends these poison prevention tips:**

- ✦ Store potentially harmful products out of sight and reach - in cabinets with safety locks.
- ✦ Know which household products are poisonous. Something as common as mouthwash can be poisonous due to its alcohol content.
- ✦ Stay alert while using poisonous household products. Many poisonings occur while adults are using a household product like bathroom cleaners or bleach. **Never leave a child alone in a room with a poisonous product.**
- ✦ Throw away old medicines and other potential poisons.
- ✦ NEVER refer to medicine or vitamins as candy. Referring to medicines and vitamins as candy could cause a child to think that it is harmless or pleasant to eat.
- ✦ Buy child - resistant packaging. Child resistant caps **do not guarantee** that children cannot open a container.
- ✦ Know which plants are poisonous and keep them out of children's reach.
- ✦ If your home was built before 1978, have it tested for lead-based paint.
- ✦ Know the number for poison control 1-800-222-1222

Be prepared if poisoning should occur, **CALL 911** and keep the following emergency numbers near your phone, local poison control center, family physician and emergency medical center.

Courtesy Greenfield Fire Department  
Fire Prevention Bureau  
Business 774-4737      Emergency 911