

Guidance for the Public

Button batteries (the small, round batteries found in many household items) can be extremely dangerous if swallowed, especially by children. Prevention is the best protection!

Key Steps to Take

- **Poison-Proof Your Home:** The most important step is to keep batteries, especially loose ones, up and away and out of sight from children. Make sure the battery compartments in toys and other devices are secure.
- **Limit Batteries:** Be mindful of how many button battery-powered devices you have in your home.
- **Know the Risks:** Button batteries are commonly found in a wide variety of items you may not suspect. Check the battery type in toys (especially light-up or sound-making ones), musical greeting cards, watches, fidgets, and even some shoes.



START: "My child may have swallowed a battery"



Button Battery



Alkaline Battery
(AA, AAA)

Type of battery

Medical emergency

Urgent, but not an emergency

Call the Poison Hotline at 1-800-222-1222 for expert medical advice while you wait.

Call an ambulance. Do not delay calling 911.

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What to expect in the emergency department for a button battery ingestion:

- Immediate x-ray
- May require removal if in the throat or stomach

What to expect from the Poison Hotline:

- A reassuring voice
- A poison information specialist will ask:
 - How your child is doing
 - Size of the battery
 - Time it was eaten
- Expert medical advice on what to do next