Product packages and sometimes actual products can look so much alike that a small child or an adult with poor or failing eyesight may be unable to tell the difference.

**Poison Proof Your Home!**

Store these items out of reach of children and the elderly. Be aware of the hazards.

**Home**

- Ammunition, guns
- Sharp knives, kitchen tools
- Matches, lighters
- Irons, toasters, fryers, grills, electric skillets

Follow these safety guidelines in your yard and garden:

- Store tools properly.
- Don’t let children ride on mowers.
- Keep children inside while using a lawn mower.
- Put a fence around swimming pools, and supervise pool activities.

**Health & Beauty Aids**

- Aftershave lotions
- Colognes
- Cosmetics
- Diet aids
- Perfume
- Deodorants
- Depilatories
- Face Creams
- Lotions
- Hair tonics, sprays
- Nail polish, removers
- Pain medications
- Shampoos
- Vitamins

**Food Items**

- Extracts…Vanilla, almond

**Utility Products**

- Auto wax, cleaners
- Kerosene
- Turpentine
- Gasoline
- Insecticides
- Paints, thinners
- Varnishes
- Herbicides

**Medications**

- All prescription medicines
- Antacids
- Antihistamines
- Headache remedies
- Cough medicine
- Boric acid
- Rubbing alcohol
- Pain relievers

Sallie Lide-Hooker, MA, FDC, Certified Family Life Educator, Regional Extension Agent, and Margaret Odom, MS, FDC, Certified Extension Educator and Regional Extension Agent, both in Family and Child Development, Auburn University

For more information, call your county Extension office. Look in your telephone directory under your county’s name to find the number.

Trade names are used only to give specific information for educational purposes. The Alabama Cooperative Extension System does not endorse or guarantee any product and does not recommend one product instead of another that might be similar.

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Use the following lists to inventory your home and grounds to sharpen awareness of potential poisons and reduce the chances of accidental poisoning.

Be alert to look-alikes

Although all look-alikes may not be poisonous or fatal, some may make a small child or even an older adult with a low immune system very sick.

Packaged look-alikes

Dishwasher detergent  Sugar Twin
Cat food  Cereal
Cleanser  Parmesan cheese
People crackers  Animal Crackers

Product look-alikes

Old English furniture polish  Apple juice
Rat poison  Sunflower seeds
Blue Powerade drink  Windex
Antacid tablets  Sweet Tarts
Oxalic acid  Sugar
Red cold/sinus tablets  Red hots
Jerky dog treats  Beef jerky
ex-lax  Hershey chocolate bar
Kitty food  Potted meat
Antacid chews  Chiclets gum
Toothpaste  Arthritis topical cream

Household products

Ammonia  Insect killers
Bleach  Metal polish, cleaners
Carpet cleaners  Oven cleaners
Detergents  Spot cleaners
Drain cleaners  Shoe care products
Dyes  Upholstery cleaners
Dry cleaners  Scouring pads
Floor cleaners  Wax remover
Furniture polish, wax  Lye
Glues  Toilet cleaners
Grease  Wall cleaners

Follow these safety rules to poison proof your home and ensure that a child or older adult will not come in contact with harmful products:

- Store harmful products out of reach or use safety closures on cabinet doors.
- Keep products in original containers. Essential information about a product will be available in case of an accident. If a product is changed to a different container, label the new container correctly.
- Keep labels on harmful items.
- Properly destroy and discard used containers, making sure that they are empty.
- Store medications separately from other products.
- Never give or take medications in the dark.
- Never call medicine “candy.” Call it by its name—medicine.
- Avoid taking medicine in front of children. They are imitators.
- NEVER give or take medicine prescribed for someone else.
- Request childproof medicine containers.
- Keep purses out of children’s reach.
- Consult your physician or druggist before combining medications.
- Teach children the universal symbol for poison—the skull and crossbones.

Safety motto: Out of reach, out of sight, out of danger.