

Button Batteries



Button batteries (coin lithium batteries) are tiny, shiny, round batteries which can be very appealing to children.



If a child ingests (swallows) a button battery or inserts one into an ear or nostril it may get stuck in their throat, nose or ear canal. Saliva or secretions may trigger an electronic current which can cause severe burns and tissue damage within two hours.

Safe Practices

Preventing children accessing button batteries is essential as - if no-one sees a child ingest or insert a button battery, there can be a delay in making a diagnosis.

Even with an x-ray, a button battery can be mistaken for a coin, causing further delays in confirming a diagnosis.

TAKE CHARGE. ACT NOW.

1 Keep out of reach

2 Get help fast

3 Tell others



Where button batteries can be found

- Small remote controls eg garage door openers, car keys
- Thermometers
- Games and toys
- Hearing aids
- Watches
- Calculators
- Bathroom scales
- Electronic/flashing jewellery
- Cameras
- Holiday ornaments
- Flameless candles
- Talking and singing books/cards
- Flashing shoes
- Reading lights
- Hand-held video games
- Mobile phones
- Torches
- Flash and pen lights
- Electric toothbrushes



Button Batteries

Search - Secure - Share and Get Help Fast

Search the home and any other place a child may go, to identify devices with button batteries.

Secure devices with button batteries and spare or loose batteries out of reach of children.

Most devices with button batteries are not toys and are not designed to be used by children.

Many battery compartments can be easily opened and batteries may fall out if a device is dropped. Securely tape shut battery compartments on all electronic devices.

NOTE: Avoid changing batteries in front of children.

Share this information with other adults to increase awareness of button battery risks.

Get Help Fast

If you see a child ingest or insert a button battery in their nose, ear, or throat, or suspect they may have done so, seek medical help. A rapid response is needed.

- Go to a hospital emergency department immediately if swallowing is suspected.
- Do NOT make the child vomit.
- Do NOT let the child eat or drink until an x-ray can confirm if a battery is present.

NOTE: Provide medical staff with the identification number from the battery pack (if known).

Learn more You will find more information on these websites:

<http://www.thebatterycontrolled.co.nz/the-facts>

<http://www.safekids.org.nz/index.php/page/battery>

Resource Sheet



Symptoms

Symptoms may be similar to those for common illnesses or infections, eg coughing, drooling, loss of appetite and discomfort.

If no-one sees the child lodge a battery in their ear, nose or throat, the nonspecific nature of symptoms can cause a delay in diagnosis, allowing greater damage to be caused.

Severe symptoms may require surgery, and may even cause death.

We have not attempted to provide a full list of symptoms here as they can vary according to the location of the battery and how long it has been there. Any child experiencing more severe symptoms at any time, eg. breathing difficulties, bloody stools (poos), vomiting, or pain, should always be seen by a doctor.

Tell medical staff if you think a child may have ingested or inserted a button battery.

Dead button batteries pose a risk

Button batteries stop powering devices long before they run out of charge, so batteries no longer effective in devices can still cause harm to children.

NOTE: The higher the voltage of the battery the faster the injury (eg 3V vs 1.5V).



porse
Little minds grow
best at home.