



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Spring Cleaning? Know this number: 1-800-222-1222**

Spring is here and so is National Poison Prevention Week (March 20-26). While you vacuum, scrub toilets and clean out the medicine cabinet, the Washington Poison Center offers the following tips to keep you and your family safe:

- Store cleaning products out of reach of children and pets.
- Keep products in their original labeled containers.
- Read and follow the label before using a cleaning product. If you have questions about correct usage, call the manufacturer or the Poison Center.
- Avoid breathing fumes from cleaning products and do not mix products.
- Immediately put products away after use.
- Rinse empty containers before putting into the trash.
- Call the Poison Center or visit [www.wapc.org](http://www.wapc.org) for ways to get rid of old medications.
- Keep Syrup of Ipecac. Use **ONLY** if told to do so by Poison Center staff or a physician.

“Don’t forget the Mr. Yuk stickers,” said Washington Poison Center Medical Director, William O. Robertson, M.D. “If your medications and other potentially poisonous products do not have the Poison Center phone number on the label, put a Mr. Yuk sticker on it.” All Mr. Yuk stickers have the national toll-free Poison Center phone number, **1-800-222-1222**, and affixing a sticker to the product keeps the number handy in an emergency.

Call the Poison Center, **1-800-222-1222**, to get Mr. Yuk stickers for you and your family. Organizations interested in obtaining bulk amounts may contact the Education Department for more information. For a list of potentially poisonous products, visit [www.wapc.org](http://www.wapc.org) or call the Poison Center.

“If a poisoning does occur, you should call **1-800-222-1222** right away to speak with one of our pharmacists, nurses or poison specialists,” Robertson said. The Poison Center is always open and all services are confidential and free of charge.

The Washington Poison Center is a nonprofit service organization that provides 24-hour emergency medical assistance, information and education about toxic substances or suspected poisons. The Washington Poison Center is funded through a contract with the state of Washington and the federal government, along with grants and donations.

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