

Button Batteries



Every week in Australia around 20 children present to an emergency department with a button battery related injury — that's over 1000 children every year. Children under the age of five are at greatest risk.

If swallowed, these powerful coin sized batteries can become stuck in a child's throat and burn through the oesophagus in less than two hours. This burning can lead to serious injury requiring surgery, or fatality.

Products that contain button batteries

Button batteries can be found in many household items such as watches, car remotes, thermometers, hearing aids, calculators, flameless candles, remote controls, toys, singing greeting cards and kitchen scales.

Children often have easy access to these devices and many parents and carers are unaware of the dangers, as the products commonly come with batteries already installed.

Symptoms of button battery ingestion

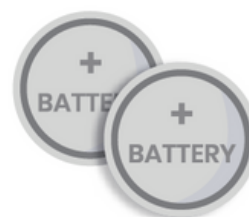
Symptoms caused by swallowing a button battery can often be mistaken for other illnesses and may include chest pain, coughing or noisy breathing, unexplained vomiting or food refusal, black or red vomit or bowel motions, unexplained fever, abdominal pain and spitting blood or blood-stained saliva.



If you suspect a child has ingested a button battery, don't wait for them to show symptoms. Immediately call the Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26 for fast, expert advice. In an emergency situation eg. if your child is having difficulty breathing, call 000 for an ambulance

How you can reduce the risk

- Check your home for button batteries and products that use them
- Examine devices and make sure the battery compartments are secure. Even if secure, button battery compartments are not necessarily child-proof, so it's still a good idea to store these products up high out of the sight and reach of children
- Store spare button batteries out of reach of children
- Dispose of used batteries immediately and safely — a flat battery can still cause serious injury if ingested. You can search for a recycling drop off point near you by visiting <https://bcycle.com.au/drop-off/>
- When purchasing products, look for those that do not use button batteries



Store button batteries up high and out of reach of children