

# POISONING

**Ensure Safety  
for Self and Others**

**Dial Triple Zero (000)  
for an Ambulance**

**Protect yourself - wear gloves, use a face mask, wash contaminated area, do not come in contact with the poison.**

## 1. WHAT, HOW MUCH, WHEN

What has been taken, how much and when  
Look for evidence or ask

## 2. CALL 13 11 26 POISONS INFORMATION CENTRE

Obtain medical advice promptly

## 3. CALL THE AMBULANCE

Dial Triple Zero (000)  
Ask for ambulance

## 4. TREAT AND MONITOR

As advised. First aid  
Until help arrives

**If unconscious, call 000 first then place on side and maintain airway.**

**If unconscious and not breathing call 000 first then perform CPR.**

## Signs & Symptoms

### In general

*A poison can enter the body by  
ingestion, injection, absorption,  
or inhalation.*

Unconsciousness  
Nausea and vomiting  
Blurred vision  
Headache  
Burning pain in mouth and throat  
Seizures  
Respiratory arrest  
Cardiac arrest

## Skin contact

Remove contaminated clothing  
Avoid contact with the poison  
Flood skin with running cold water  
Wash gently with soap and water and rinse well

## Enters the eye

Flood the eye with saline or cold water from a running tap or a cup/jug  
Continue to flush for 15 minutes, holding the eyelids open

## If swallowed

Give a sip of water to wash out their mouth  
DO NOT try to make them vomit  
DO NOT use Ipecac Syrup

## If inhaled

If safe (don't go into an unsafe environment):  
Immediately get the casualty to fresh air  
Avoid breathing fumes  
Open doors and windows

## If swallowed - button battery

Determine:  
The type of battery  
The battery identification number, found on the package or from a matching battery  
The casualty's age, weight and condition  
Don't allow them to eat or drink anything  
If the battery contents touches the eyes or skin, wash with water for 15 minutes  
If in nose or ears, seek urgent medical help  
DO NOT use nose or ear drops

## Signs & Symptoms

### Button batteries - swallowed

Similar to a common cold  
Fever  
Coughing/difficulty swallowing  
Drooling  
Lethargy  
Irritability  
Abdominal pain/vomiting  
Loss of appetite  
Dark or bloody bowel movements

### Button batteries - in ear or nose

Pain and/or a discharge from the nose or ears