

First Aid for chemical accidents in the home

If you think a dangerous chemical may have affected someone in your care, **do not wait for symptoms to become obvious**. Always check if you are not sure.

For immediate information, ring the **Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26**. This service is available 24 hours a day, from anywhere in Australia.

What to do if someone has been exposed to a poison or dangerous chemical

If the patient has **swallowed poison**

- Take the container to the telephone, call the **Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26** and read the information on the label to the person who answers the phone.
- Do **not** try to make the patient vomit.

Where chemicals have come into **direct contact with the skin**

- Remove contaminated clothing, taking care to avoid contact with the chemical.
- Flood the skin with cool running water.
- Wash the affected area gently with soap and water and rinse well.
- Contact your doctor if you are still concerned or if the skin appears unnaturally discoloured or scarred.

If a chemical has been splashed **in the eye**

- Flood the eye with water from a cup, jug or slowly running tap. Continue for at least 10 to 15 minutes, holding the eyelids open.
- If discomfort persists, see your doctor.

If the patient has **inhaled the chemical or poison**

- Get the person to fresh air quickly, without placing yourself at risk.
- Open doors and windows wide, if it is safe to do so, and again seek medical help if necessary.