

BUTTON BATTERIES and MAGNETS

What are button batteries and why are they dangerous?

Button batteries are small, disc-shaped batteries found in many household items: electronic singing greeting cards and talking children's books, watches, toys, hearing aids, bathroom scales, remote controls, and likely many more items.

If a child swallows a button battery, it can become stuck in the throat and rapidly cause burns.

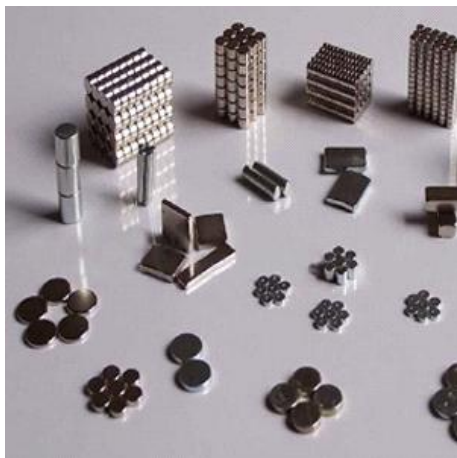
What can I do if my child swallows a button battery?

Symptoms can include coughing, drooling, pain, and refusing to eat or drink. At first, you may not see any of these signs, but serious damage can occur. If your child swallows a button battery, do not make your child vomit and do not let your child eat or drink. Children swallowing a button battery need medical attention. Immediately call the poison center or your doctor. An x-ray will help confirm if a button battery has been swallowed.



What can I do to keep my child safe?

Keep devices such as remote controls out of a child's reach and lock up loose batteries. Check toys frequently to make sure batteries are present and the battery compartments are secure.



SMALL MAGNETS

Small earth magnets can be quite powerful and can be very dangerous when two or more are swallowed. Magnets attract each other and can damage the stomach and/or intestines, causing tissue death.

If you have young children or pets, supervise closely all play involving magnet type toys. If a child swallows a magnet or says that they may have, do not wait for symptoms. Get medical attention. Call the poison center or your doctor. An x-ray will help confirm if a magnet has been swallowed.

Call the Rocky Mountain Poison Center toll free any time at 1-800-222-1222!