Kids don’t see the difference

Keep laundry capsules away from children

#LaundrySafe

Global Awareness-raising Campaign on Laundry Detergent Capsules/packets

16-23 March 2015
WHAT MAY HAPPEN

Laundry detergent liquid capsules/packets are designed to contain concentrated detergent for single use. The content of the capsules, protected by a membrane, is released once it comes in contact with the moisture during a washing. Yet, laundry detergent liquid capsules/packets are small, tactile and often colourful, which makes them attractive to children, especially toddlers, who are tempted to put them in the mouth or play with them. A laundry liquid capsule can burst in a child’s hand, especially when it is wet or moist. It can also rapidly dissolve with moisture and may burst in a child’s mouth in as little as ten seconds, which can cause severe injuries.

SAFETY ALERT

Over 16 000* cases of people (mostly children) exposed to chemicals contained in the laundry capsules/packets on a yearly basis globally.

In case of ingestion:
- severe vomiting,
- coughing,
- respiratory disorders,
- nausea,
- drowsiness
- and rash

In case of contact with the eyes:
- conjunctivitis,
- pain in the eye,
- eye irritation

In case of contact with the skin:
- rash,
- skin irritation,
- chemical burn

*Aggregated number of exposures to chemicals contained in laundry detergent capsules registered in the most recent year of data available (2012 or 2013 or 2014) in the following countries: USA, Japan, Germany, Czech Republic, The Netherlands, Italy, France, Spain, Estonia, Latvia, Hungary, Portugal, Korea, Belgium, Ireland and Australia.
SAFETY MESSAGES FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

SAFE STORAGE

Store these products up high, out of reach and out of sight of children.

If stored in lower accessible cabinets/cupboards, these should be secured with child resistant locks.

Keep the capsules/packets in their original container, fully closed between uses.

SAFE USE

Carefully read the labels on the packaging.

Do not use the capsules/packets while children are close by and do not allow or invite children to manipulate them.

Never pierce or break laundry capsules/packets.

Do not leave the capsules/packets outside their container.

Close the container lid properly after every use.

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF EXPOSURE

If the capsule/packet is put in the mouth, rinse the child's mouth and face thoroughly.

Do NOT induce vomiting.

If a child has capsule liquid close to eyes or on hands, rinse carefully with plenty of water.

Call a doctor, or a Poison Control Centre or go to the medical emergency department.

GLOBAL CAMPAIGN

[Map indicating countries where the campaign is active: United States, Canada, Mexico, Peru, Chile, Australia, Japan, Republic of Korea, European Union]