

Button Batteries

Fact Sheet

Around our homes there is a little-known danger to children. Increasingly found in a number of household items may be a powerful coin-sized battery known as a button battery.

Button batteries can be found in a number of products or electronic devices around the home. Often they can seem invisible to parents as devices regularly come with batteries already installed. Devices that commonly contain button batteries include;

- **Remote controls**
- **Small calculators**
- **Car key fobs**
- **Watches**
- **Flameless candles**
- **Singing greeting cards**
- **Toys**
- **Novelty items**
- **Hearing aids**

Specifically, **3V lithium button** batteries that are >20mm in diameter and roughly the same size as a ten cent coin have been associated with the greatest danger when swallowed.

With smaller sized button batteries known to cause serious injury when placed in the ear or nose. Often children under five years of age have easy access to devices containing button batteries, with parents unaware that there is a potential risk of injury.

Diagnosis can be difficult as the symptoms of swallowing a button battery can be similar to other childhood illnesses. Symptoms can include coughing, drooling, discomfort, vomiting, abdominal pain, fever, diarrhoea and respiratory distress.

Prevention

- 1. Identify** devices around your home that may contain button batteries.
- 2. Ensure** battery compartments are secure, regardless of whether the device is intended for a child.
- 3. Place** devices that contain button batteries out of reach and out of sight of young children.
- 4. Dispose** of batteries safely at a battery recycling collection point. Contact your local council for locations.
- 5. Share** this information with other parents and carers, friends and family members.

First aid

If a child is suspected of swallowing a button battery call the Poisons Information Line on **13 11 26** immediately. However, if the child is choking or struggling to breathe, phone **000** for an ambulance.



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Poison Information Centre **13 11 26**