



Button Battery Safety



The danger of button batteries

Button batteries are used to power everyday objects like key fobs, remotes, children's toys and hearing aids.

These batteries can badly injure or even kill a child if they are swallowed.

This is because the button battery reacts with saliva to create caustic soda (the chemical that is used to unblock drains.) This can burn a hole in the throat and cause internal bleeding or even death.

It sounds scary but there are ways to keep your child safe.



How to keep safe

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Store spare batteries securely

Store spare button batteries securely and out of children's reach. Don't leave them loose in draws or on surfaces. Watch out when opening multi packs of button batteries in case they fall on the floor.



Know which toys and gadgets use button batteries.

This includes everyday toys and gadgets, such as: robots, interactive toys, car fob, calculators, watches, hearing aids and novelty items like singing Santa's.



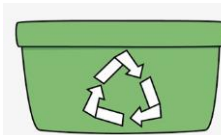
Check your home, nursery or school

Have a look around your home, nursery or school. If you find things powered by button batteries, check if the battery compartment is secured by a screw. If there is no screw, then remove these things out of reach of small children. If its faulty get it fixed or get rid of it safely.



Teach older children the danger

Teach older children why button batteries are dangerous and why things containing them should not be given to younger children.



Get rid of dead button batteries immediately

Dead batteries still have enough power to badly hurt a small child. When you remove one, store it securely and recycle it properly and promptly. Hearing aid batteries can be returned to the hospital.



If your child swallows a button battery



Symptoms may not be obvious. Your child might be coughing, gagging or drooling, or pointing to their throat or tummy. Unclear symptoms mean it is important to be vigilant.

If you think your child has swallowed a battery, take them straight to the nearest A & E department or call 999 for an ambulance.


Do:


- Take the battery packaging, toy or gadget – if you can- to help staff identify the battery.
- Trust your instincts and act fast, even if there are no symptoms.


Don't:

- Let your child eat or drink
- Make your child be sick



 When changing button batteries especially in nursery's, move into another room so you are not distracted.

 Button batteries can cause severe tissue burns in as little as **2 hours** and can cause lifelong injuries



A child can also put button batteries up their nose in their ear, as well as swallowing them.

If any of these happen take the child to A & E immediately.

