



# Button Battery Risks



**HIDDEN KILLERS**  
WATCH OUT FOR HOUSEHOLD ITEMS WITH BUTTON BATTERIES

1. BATHROOM SCALES
2. HEARING AIDS
3. READING LIGHTS
4. FLAMELESS CANDLES
5. GAMES AND TOYS
6. WATCHES
7. CALCULATORS
8. TORCHES AND LASER LIGHTS
9. THERMOMETERS
10. MUSICAL GREETING CARDS
11. REMOTE CONTROL DEVICES FOR CARS AND SPEAKERS

TAKE ACTION AT [CHOICE.COM.AU/BUTTONBATTERIES](http://CHOICE.COM.AU/BUTTONBATTERIES)



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Children want to explore. And young children have a tendency to put most of what they find laying around the house in their mouths.

Every parent knows this, but what parents don't always know are the hidden dangers lurking inside seemingly harmless items, such as remote control devices, hearing aids and keyless remote door openers for vehicles.

What's inside? Coin lithium batteries. You may know them as button batteries. These little silver-colored batteries power everything from toys and electronics to watches and musical greeting cards.

If swallowed or placed in the nose or ears, button batteries can cause serious injury or death, according to the National Capital Poison Center at 1-800-498-8666.

More than 3,500 people of all ages swallow button batteries every year in the United States. Most pass through the body and are eliminated, but sometimes they get hung up in the esophagus. An electrical current can form in the body, and hydroxide, an alkaline chemical, can cause tissue burns that can be fatal.

Look in your home for any items that may contain coin-sized button batteries such as;  
Small remotes · Car key fobs · Mini remotes that control MP3 speakers · Calculators · Bathroom scales · Reading lights · Flameless candles · Talking and singing books · Singing greeting cards · Watches · Thermometers · Hearing aids · Flashing jewelry · Ornaments · Games · Toys

Parents and caregivers are urged to keep products containing these batteries away from children. CPSC recommends the following steps to prevent unintentional battery ingestion:

- Do not allow children to play with or be in contact with coin cell batteries.
- Caution hearing aid users to keep hearing aids and batteries out of the reach of children.
- Never put batteries in your mouth for any reason because they are easily swallowed accidentally.
- Always check medications before ingesting them. Adults have swallowed button batteries mistaking them for pills or tablets.
- Keep remotes and other electronics out of your child's reach if the battery compartments do not have a screw to secure them. Use tape to help secure the battery compartment.
- If a button battery is ingested, seek medical attention immediately. The National Battery Ingestion and Poison Help Hotlines are available 24 hours a day at [1-800-498-8666](tel:1-800-498-8666).

## What to Do in an Emergency

The Poison Center outlines steps to take if you suspect someone has ingested a button battery:

- Call the 24-hour National Battery Ingestion Hotline (800) 498-8666
- If available, provide the battery identification number, found on the package or from a matching battery
- In most cases, an X-ray must be obtained to determine whether the battery has passed through the esophagus into the stomach; if the battery remains in the esophagus, it must be removed immediately
- ***DO NOT*** induce vomiting; don't eat or drink until the X-ray shows the battery is beyond the esophagus
- Report fever, abdominal pain, vomiting or blood in stools immediately.
- Watch for fever, abdominal pain, vomiting, or blood in the stools. Report these symptoms immediately.
- Check the stools until the battery has passed.
- Your physician or the emergency room may call the National Button Battery Ingestion Hotline at **1-800-498-8666** for consultation about button batteries. Expert advice is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- - Discard button batteries carefully or recycle the batteries.

For more information, contact the River Forest Fire Prevention Bureau at 708-714-3562

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