



Ants (and other Poisons) Go Marching One By One Into Your Home This Spring

The calls to the Nebraska Regional Poison Center change like the weather. The unusual spring that we have had brings an unusual amount of calls on exposures to ant poison. We have received double the amount of calls from last year. The sight of ants in and around the house is disturbing and the first reaction is to reach for the aerosol can of bug spray. Be sure you read the label on all insecticides and keep these products up and out of reach of children.

Here are some tips:

- Go over ant trails with water and a mild detergent.
- Consider using a bait type product as the ants will take this back to the colony, making it more effective.
- Make sure the type of insecticide you are using is for the problem that you have.
- Always use lidded trashcans, and avoid leaving pet food out in the open for extended periods.

Spring is a time to spruce up the house and the calls on bleach and other cleaners have increased to the Registered Nurses at the Poison Center. Never mix bleach with other cleaners as that will form chlorine or chloramine gas. Mild symptoms include a slight cough and burning to the throat, nose and eyes. Chest tightness, difficulty breathing, persistent cough and feelings of anxiety would signal more severe symptoms and require a visit to the hospital. Delayed symptoms are possible, even up to three days after the exposure.

- Never store other chemicals in old chlorine, or bleach containers.
- If you get cleaners on your skin, irrigate with large amounts of water.
- If you have been exposed to chlorine gas, get to fresh air immediately.

Planting flowers and fertilizing the yard keeps many of us busy this time of year. If you're not sure whether yours are poisonous, call us at the poison center – we would be happy to help you. Follow the label on all fertilizers, insecticides, and fungicides that you apply in the yard or on trees.

- Avoid spraying or applying on windy days.
- Use recommended equipment and protective garments when using
- Keep pets and children off treated areas as directed
- Always store these chemicals up and out of reach and always store them in the original containers.

The Registered Nurses at the Poison Center are available 24/7 to answer your calls and questions. Instead of rushing to the hospital after an exposure – call the poison center and you may save yourself some time and money. The Poison Center is a free service to the public.