

PRESS RELEASE

Fun without Fear: stay safe in the garden this summer

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Child accidents increase significantly during the summer months. On average, the number of children seeking emergency treatment is 30% higher between April and September than it is during the winter Months.⁽¹⁾

How should parents ensure children's safety without stifling their budding sense of adventure? The increased freedom at this time of year should go hand in hand with increased awareness of potential hazards.

It's not just parents that should be conscious of accident prevention. It is also a popular time for children to visit grandparents, aunties and uncles, family friends and relatives. So it's particularly important for us all to consider the possible hazards facing children at this time of year.

Cameron Smith, Business Manager for Bitrex⁽²⁾ said, "Summer is a peak time for misadventure. The good weather encourages children to get outside and explore their surroundings and this can all too often lead to accidents. Along with our support for the Child Accident Prevention Trust, we hope these tips can help reduce the number of children injured this summer."

How to childproof the garden

- Store gardening equipment and tools out of the reach of children.
- Keep all gates, fences and doors locked at all times.⁽³⁾
- If you use slug pellets, remember to use ones with the Bitrex logo. Bitrex is a bittering agent which will discourage children from eating the pellets.
- Make sure all BBQ and outdoor cooking equipment is safely stored and out of your child's way.
- Clean up any broken glass immediately and check for similar dangerous foreign objects that could injure your child.
- If you have a pool in your garden, install fencing at least 5 feet (1.5 meters) high on all sides of the pool, as well as a self-closing and self-latching gate with a lock that's out of a child's reach.
- Consider installing a pool alarm or cover. Remove toys from the pool when children are finished swimming to prevent them from trying to recover them when unsupervised.
- Inflatable flotation devices such as vests, water wings, rafts, and tubes can give a false sense of security in the pool and are not effective in protecting a child from drowning. Never use these as a substitute for constant adult supervision.⁽⁴⁾
- Don't use empty juice bottles or jars to store liquid chemicals.
- Store all garden chemicals in a locked cabinet; ensure that they have childproof caps; be sure to check for the Bitrex logo.⁽⁵⁾
- Remember that these are just a few suggested precautions and are not a substitute for adult supervision.

ENDS

Notes for Editors

- (1) Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital 2003
- (2) Bitrex is a bittering agent produced by Macfarlan Smith, worldwide pharmaceuticals company .
- (3) Over 41,000 children under 5 were injured due to falls downstairs.
- (4) 11 under 15's died from drowning in the UK in 2007. (ISD Scotland)
- (5) Each year, around 26,000 under 5's are taken to hospital because they've swallowed something harmful.

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