

BSFD Safety Alert: Laundry Detergent Pods

The Bonita Springs Fire Control & Rescue District wants you to use caution when using all laundry detergents but specifically the liquid laundry detergent pods.

Poison centers receive many calls each year about children getting into laundry detergent. Swallowing it often causes mild stomach upset, if there are any symptoms at all, but poison center experts say the new highly concentrated single-load liquid laundry detergent packets seem to be different. Symptoms include excessive vomiting, wheezing and gasping. Some children get very sleepy and have breathing difficulties. There have also been reports of corneal abrasions when the detergent gets into a child's eyes.

In 2015, from Jan. 1 to June 30, poison centers received reports of 6,046 exposures to highly concentrated packets of laundry detergent by children 5 and younger. These new laundry packets dissolve in the washing machine. They are colorful and squishy and attractive to children. They often look like candy or something fun to play with.

One of these is candy.
One is poison.



Think it's hard to tell the difference?
So do our kids.



Safety Tips

- Always keep detergents locked up, high, and out of the reach of children
- Follow the instructions on the product label.
- Call your local poison center at 1-800-222-1222 if you suspect a child has been exposed to a packet of highly concentrated liquid laundry detergent.
- **Remember to call 9-1-1 immediately if the child is having breathing difficulty**

What is the Poison Help Line?

If you or someone you know may have been poisoned, call the toll-free Poison Help Line right away at **1-800-222-1222**, which connects you to your local poison center. If the person is not breathing, call 911. Do not wait for signs of a poisoning before calling the Poison Help line. When you call, you will speak with a poison expert at your poison center.

For more information, [click here](#)



Remember: Do not panic. Not all medicines, chemicals, or household products are poisonous. Not all contact with poison results in poisoning.