



Office for Product  
Safety & Standards



# Button batteries can hurt or kill your child

Button batteries react with saliva to make caustic soda, which is used to unblock drains. If a child swallows a button battery and it gets stuck in their food pipe, it can burn a hole. This causes internal bleeding and can kill.

**Keep all button batteries out of your child's reach**

## What are button batteries?

They are small, flat, round batteries which can be easily swallowed. Larger lithium batteries are the most dangerous. They are about the same size as a 5p piece. Smaller batteries can also be put into places like ears and noses.



## Check your home for button batteries

You can find them in:



**slim remote controls**



**key finders**



**calculators**



**thermometers**



**car key fobs**



**watches**



**kitchen or bathroom scales**



**gaming headsets**



**flameless nightlights**



**fidget spinners with LED lights**



**hearing aids**



**novelty items like flashing wands, light-up headbands, and robot bug or fish toys**



## Make sure your home and family are safe

-  Store spare button batteries securely and out of children's reach. Never leave them loose in drawers or on surfaces.

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-  When opening multipacks, make sure batteries don't fall on the floor.

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-  If you find items where the battery compartment isn't secured, move them out of reach of children. If the item is faulty, get it fixed or get rid of it safely. Button battery compartments in toys **must** be secured so that children cannot get to the battery.

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-  Tell older children why button batteries are dangerous. Explain why they shouldn't play with them or give them to young children.

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-  'Dead' button batteries can still have enough power to badly hurt a small child. When you remove one, store it securely and recycle it properly and quickly.



## Act fast



If you think your child has swallowed a button battery, **take them straight to A&E**. Symptoms may not be obvious.

Your child may be:

- coughing
- gagging or drooling
- pointing to their throat or stomach

## Do:



- act fast, even if there are no symptoms
- take the battery packaging, toy or gadget with you if you can

## Don't:



- let your child eat or drink
- make your child be sick