

Out of reach, out of harm's way

Cannabis safety for parents and caregivers

An increasing number of people and pets have accidentally consumed cannabis in recent years.

The number of **youth accidentally exposed to edible cannabis products** rose 1,375% from 2017 to 2021, according to the journal Pediatrics. Of these, nearly 98% occurred in the home.

Make your home safer by keeping cannabis products in a locked container and out of reach.

Why Secure Storage Matters

Cannabis products, especially edibles, can look like snacks or food for kids and pets. If they are accidentally eaten, they can cause:

- **Poisoning**, especially with high-potency THC products
- **Severe symptoms** like extreme sleepiness, trouble breathing, or unresponsiveness
- **Emergency trips** to the hospital, which can be scary and stressful

Safe Storage Tips

- Store your cannabis in a **secure, childproof container that is locked or has tamper-proof packaging**. Order a **free, lockable bag** for cannabis products from the Rhode Island Regional Prevention Coalitions.
- Keep cannabis **out of reach of children**, pets, and visitors.
- Keep cannabis products in their original packaging and **avoid storing them in a way that looks like food** (e.g., clear bags or candy wrappers) to reduce confusion.

What to Do if Someone Accidentally Eats Cannabis

- **For kids:** If a child accidentally eats cannabis, contact a healthcare professional, call the Massachusetts & Rhode Island Poison Control Center at **1-800-222-1222** for guidance, or seek emergency medical help right away.
- **For pets:** Call your veterinarian or seek emergency veterinary help right away.