

How to Care for Your Child After exposure to a Pesticide

This leaflet will provide you with information about pesticide poisoning; its causes, symptoms, diagnosis, treatments and home care advice.



What is a pesticide?

A pesticide is a chemical substance used to kill insects, rodents, fungi and unwanted plants. Pesticides are potentially toxic to humans if not used properly, so they must be handled and stored safely.

What are the causes of pesticide poisoning?

Your child can get sick from pesticides due to:

- Going into an area too soon after pesticides were applied.
- Storing pesticides in food or drink containers (like water bottles).
- Consuming food or drinks contaminated with pesticides.
- Leaving pesticide containers open where children can reach them or near food.
- Using pesticides in closed spaces without protective gear.
- Using outdoor pesticides inside the home.
- Touching the treated surfaces without using protective clothes.

What are the symptoms of pesticide poisoning?

Symptoms may include:

If swallowed:

- Nausea, vomiting, stomach pain
- Unusual movements, loss of consciousness
- Coughing, choking, difficulty breathing

If inhaled (breathed in):

- Trouble breathing, coughing, sneezing
- Dizziness, skin rash, loss of consciousness

If touched (skin contact):

- Skin rash, dryness, itching, redness
- Numbness or tingling in the skin

How is pesticide poisoning diagnosed?

A doctor will assess your child's symptoms and exposure to pesticides to make a diagnosis.

How is pesticide poisoning treated?

Treatment depends on your child's symptoms and may include:

- Medicines for nausea, vomiting, and seizures
- Antihistamines (allergy medicine) for rashes or itching
- Oxygen for breathing problems

Home Safety Tips to Prevent Pesticide Poisoning:

To protect your child from the toxic effects of pesticides, please follow the safety instructions below:

Use safe pesticide products:

- Only buy pesticides that are registered and approved by the Ministry of Municipalities and Environment.
- Never use outdoor or veterinary pesticides inside your home.
- Follow the label instructions carefully and never use any pesticide more than directed.
- Avoid using pesticides containing phosphides, as they are highly toxic and may cause death.

When using pest control companies:

- Use a company licensed by the Ministry of Municipalities and Environment.
- Ask for the pesticide's name and check if it's approved for indoor use.
- Ask for safety instructions and follow them closely.

Before applying the pesticide:

- Always read the label carefully and follow the directions of use.
- Remove children, toys and pets from the area.
- Remove or cover food and food appliances well.
- Wear personal protective equipment: protective gloves, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt, and a face mask.

After applying the pesticide and before accessing the treated area:

- Keep your family members, children and pets away until it is safe to access the area as per company direction and/or label.
- Ensure the area is well-ventilated, especially if spray/liquid pesticides are used.
- Ensure that the pesticide container is tightly locked and stored away from children.

What to do in case of pesticides exposure?

If your child comes in contact with pesticide:

- Call the Qatar Poison Center (QPC) at 4003-1111 immediately for guidance.
- Wash exposed skin well with soap and water.
- Move your child to a well-ventilated area with fresh air if they inhaled the pesticide.

When should I seek medical advice?

Get medical help if your child has been exposed to a pesticide and shows any of these symptoms:

- Severe rash
- Nausea, vomiting, or stomach pain

Call 999 or Go to the Emergency Department immediately, if your child:

- Has difficulty breathing
- Is dizzy or loses consciousness
- Shows unusual body movements or seizures

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