

# Laundry Detergent Pods



Laundry detergent products packaged in “single dose packs” are colorful and attractive to children. Product names include Tide Pods, Purex Ultra Packs and All Mighty Packs Liquid Laundry Unit Dose.

## Why are these a problem?

Most liquid laundry detergents cause only one episode of vomiting and commonly no problems at all.

But - physicians are seeing that the laundry pods are much more dangerous.

- Poison Centers began to get many calls as soon as these products were sold. When a child bites on the packet, it bursts easily and detergent fills the mouth.
- Almost immediately, the child chokes, coughs and tries to spit out the detergent.
- Vomiting can occur and may go on for hours.
- Some children become very weak from coughing and vomiting and have to be admitted to hospitals for medical care.
- Most children recover without serious effects; but in August 2013, a child in Florida died several hours after swallowing the contents of a laundry detergent packet.

## What can I do?

- **Call for advice** from medical professionals at the Virginia Poison Center at **1-800-222-1222** if a child bites into a laundry detergent pod or opens the packet and has detergent on their skin.
- Wash exposed skin areas with lots of soap and water.
- **Call 911** if the child is having any difficulty in breathing or is unconscious.

Nurses at the Virginia Poison Center help callers take care of children who are exposed to laundry pods. Many times, children can be treated at home without the need for an emergency department visit. It is safer for children if families with toddlers **do not** use these detergent packs.



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