

Button Battery Safety Advice

Please be aware of the dangers posed by 'button' or 'coin' batteries. As you know batteries such as these are used widely every day in all sorts of toys, household gadgets and of course hearing aids and other hearing devices.

If swallowed or poked into nostrils or ears they are not only a choking hazard, but can also cause serious harm from catastrophic burns and can even cause death. Babies and young children (under 5 years) are most at risk of serious harm as they tend to explore the world by putting things in their mouths, but also vulnerable children and adults such as those with additional needs, learning disabilities or dementia may also be at risk.

Please ensure that you store, carry and dispose of batteries safely so that they are kept out of the reach of babies, young children and any others who may be at risk.

How can I keep children and vulnerable adults safe?

- Look round your home for lithium coin cell batteries in products as well as spare and 'flat' batteries.
- Keep all spare batteries in a sealed container in a high cupboard.
- Keep products well out of children's reach if the battery compartment isn't secured.
- Put 'flat' or 'dead' batteries out of children's reach straight away and recycle them safely and as quickly as possible.
- Avoid toys from markets, discount stores or temporary shops as they may not conform to safety regulations, and take care when buying online or from overseas.
- Teach older children that button batteries are dangerous and not to play with them or give them to younger brothers and sisters.

IF YOU SUSPECT SOMEONE HAS SWALLOWED A BUTTON BATTERY, ACT FAST

- Take them straight to the A&E department at your local hospital or dial 999 for an ambulance.
- Tell the doctor there that you think your child has swallowed a button battery.
- If you have the battery packaging or the product powered by the battery, take it with you. This will help the doctor identify the type of battery and make treatment easier.
- Do not let them eat or drink.
- Do not make them sick.
- Trust your instincts and act fast – do not wait to see if any symptoms develop.