

Sowing the seeds of safety

Every year over 125,000 children
are seriously injured
in the garden



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Department of Trade and Industry

Government consumer safety campaign

Playing safe: 10 tips for garden safety

Tools

Never leave sharp tools lying around. Keep them safely locked away and out of reach.

Fences, walls & gates

Kids can easily slip out through holes in fences, walls and gates and get on to busy roads. Make sure your garden is secure by keeping them in good repair.

Play equipment

Swings and climbing frames should be securely fixed and well maintained. Don't put them on hard surfaces like gravel or paving, or near glass greenhouses.

BBQs

BBQs can be a major fire hazard. Never leave them unattended when children are around. Lit BBQs give off Carbon Monoxide so should never be used indoors.

Pathways

Broken or uneven paths and steps cause tens of thousands of nasty accidents every year. Keep them clean, well maintained and safe for everyone.

The garden is a place for all the family to enjoy, but it can also be a place where accidents happen. Even everyday activities like running and playing can expose children to the risk of injury. Every year, more than 125,000 kids need hospital treatment for garden injuries – and, in most cases, those injuries could easily have been avoided. Here are some tips on making your garden a safer place.



Sheds

Teach your children not to play in the shed. Use it to lock away dangerous chemicals like weedkillers, sharp tools and electrical equipment when not in use.

Water

Every year, toddlers drown in ponds and paddling pools. To avoid a tragedy in your garden, drain or cover ponds and empty paddling pools immediately after use.

Electrical equipment

Unplug electrical equipment when it's not in use. Never use it in the wet and keep it in good repair. Fitting an RCD (residual current device) could save a life. *

Animals

Always keep an eye on children when they are playing with animals, and make sure your animals are kept under control.

Poisonous plants

Make sure you know which plants in your garden are poisonous and keep them out of reach of young children.**

Photograph: ©The Trustees, The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond TW9 3AE

Emergency resuscitation¹

If your child is unconscious

Look and listen for 10 seconds to check breathing. To check the pulse, put your fingers on the carotid pulse – in the neck – for 10 seconds.

Mouth to mouth ventilation

Pinching your child's nose closed, breath into his or her mouth until the chest rises. Let the chest fall, then repeat at a rate of 10 breaths per minute.

*Residual current devices (RCDs) are intended to stop the flow of electricity when a cable or flex is cut or an electrical tool malfunctions, reducing the risk of electrocution.



** For a free safety leaflet on poisonous plants in the garden, telephone 01494 717800 and ask for a copy of *Take Care - be plant aware*.

¹ A First Aid course will prepare you for a wide range of situations, from simple cuts to broken limbs and resuscitation. To find your nearest course, look in the phone book for St John Ambulance or St Andrew's Ambulance Association.



St John
Ambulance



Chest compressions

Put the heel of your hand just above where the ribs meet the breastbone and press down to a third of the depth of the chest. Do this 5 times, at a rate of 100 per minute. Alternate 5 compressions with 1 ventilation.

Recovery position

If your child is breathing and has a pulse, place him or her in the recover position. Check breathing and pulse frequently.

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