

Keep Highly Concentrated Packets of Laundry Detergent Locked Up and Out of the Reach of Kids



Photo – Iowa Statewide Poison Control Center

Why are highly concentrated packets of laundry detergent (laundry pods) a problem?

- Packets are bright and squishy. Easily capturing a child's attention, they look like something fun to play with.
- Packets can be mistaken for candy due to their colorful appearance, especially when not in their original container.
- Children ages 5 and younger are at the greatest risk for harm.
- Packets can be bitten into and swallowed. Burst packets may spray onto the face and eyes.

What are some possible signs & symptoms?



Coughing, choking, wheezing; difficult/slow breathing; nausea and vomiting; drowsiness



Eye irritation and pain



Skin irritation, facial burning, rash

How are packets different from traditional laundry detergent?

Packets (pods) are more concentrated and people may experience signs and symptoms which are not usually seen with accidental poisoning of traditional laundry detergent.

The experts at your local poison center urge parents and caregivers to:

- Always keep detergents locked up, high, and out of the reach of children.
- Follow the instructions on the product label.
- Call your local poison center at 1-800-222-1222 **immediately** if you think a child has been exposed to a packet of highly concentrated liquid laundry detergent (laundry pod).
- If the detergent has gotten into the eyes or on skin, rinse the area thoroughly with water for 15 minutes, and then call your local poison center for more help.