



# Getting savvy about batteries to keep young children safe

TODAY, CARS START WITH THE PUSH OF A BUTTON, BOOKS record our voices, candles flicker without a flame and thousands of electronics operate by remote control. To keep our gadgets small, slim and sleek, an ever-increasing number are powered by coin lithium batteries. However, because many of these devices are not designed for use by children, the battery compartments can be very easy to open. This creates a hidden danger—even in homes where safety is top of mind.

### Which batteries put my young child at risk?

As use of coin-sized button batteries has become more widespread, so has the risk that a small child will swallow one. The most serious cases are associated with 20 mm diameter lithium batteries, about the size of a nickel, because they can easily get stuck in a small child's throat. In more than a third of coin lithium battery swallowing incidents among children, the batteries have come out of remote control devices.

Symptoms of coin-sized button battery ingestion may be similar to other childhood illnesses, such as coughing, drooling, and discomfort. When a battery gets stuck in a child's throat, the saliva triggers an electrical current. This causes a chemical reaction that can severely burn the esophagus in as little as two hours. Once the burning reaction begins, it can continue even after the battery is removed. Repairing the damage is painful and can require feeding tubes, breathing tubes and multiple surgeries. In some cases, children who swallowed button batteries have died.

### Where are coin-sized button batteries found?

Coin-sized button batteries are found in everyday devices such as:

- Mini remote control devices that unlock car doors and control portable DVD players and MP3 speakers
- Calculators
- Bathroom scales
- Reading lights
- Flameless candles
- Talking and singing books and greeting cards
- Digital thermometers



### Tips for prevention

1. Keep button batteries and devices that use them out of reach if the battery compartments aren't secure. Try securing devices with strong tape.
2. Keep loose or spare batteries locked away.
3. Tell others about this hidden danger.

### What should I do if my young child swallows a coin-sized button battery?

1. Go to the emergency room immediately. If possible, provide the medical team with the identification number found on the battery's packaging.
2. Do not let the child eat or drink, or induce vomiting until an x-ray can determine if a battery is present.

To learn more, visit [TheBatteryControlled.com](http://TheBatteryControlled.com), [Facebook.com/TheBatteryControlled](https://www.facebook.com/TheBatteryControlled) and [youtube.com/user/Thebatterycontrolled](https://www.youtube.com/user/Thebatterycontrolled). ❖

---

*The content of this Parent Page was provided by The Battery Controlled Initiative, supported by Energizer in partnership with Safe Kids Worldwide, a leader in the field of child safety.*