Symptoms

The symptoms caused from swallowing a button battery are not unique and can look like other illnesses.

Symptoms may include chest pain, coughing, vomiting, trouble swallowing, etc.

Urgent action needed

If you think your child has swallowed or inserted a button battery, don’t wait for them to show symptoms.

CALL THE POISONS INFORMATION CENTRE URGENTLY FOR EXPERT ADVICE ON WHAT TO DO 24 HOURS, 7 DAYS

13 11 26

In an emergency situation, CALL 000 FOR AN AMBULANCE.

For more information about button batteries and how to make your home safe, contact:

Kidsafe SA
(08) 8161 6318
www.kidsafesa.com.au

SA Health: Public Health Services
(08) 8226 7100
Poisoning prevention around the home
www.sahealth.sa.gov.au

Poisons Information Centre
13 11 26

In an emergency situation, CALL 000 FOR AN AMBULANCE.

Did you know...

If swallowed, button batteries can get stuck in a child’s throat and burn through the oesophagus in less than 2 hours. This burning can lead to serious injury requiring surgery, or death.

If you think your child has swallowed or inserted a button battery, don’t wait for them to show symptoms.

CALL THE POISONS INFORMATION CENTRE URGENTLY FOR EXPERT ADVICE ON WHAT TO DO 24 HOURS, 7 DAYS

13 11 26

In an emergency situation, CALL 000 FOR AN AMBULANCE.

November 2016
Button batteries are **extremely dangerous**

Button batteries can get stuck in a child’s throat without blocking their airway. You may not even know that it’s in there. 20 children go to hospital every week in Australia suspected of swallowing a button battery.

### Common items button batteries are found in

- **Watch**
- **Car remote**
- **Thermometer**
- **Calculator**
- **Torch keyring**
- **Musical card & other novelty items**
- **Remote**
- **Fake candle**
- **Kitchen scales**
- **Hearing aid**

### Prevention

- **Look for items with button batteries**
- **Keep items & loose batteries out of reach of children**
- **Secure the battery compartment**
- **Dispose of them immediately and safely**

### Button battery safety checklist for parents and carers

- Have you checked your home for button batteries and items that use them?
- Have you checked that the button battery compartment of all items that use button batteries is tightly secured?
- Do you store button batteries and items that use them out of the reach of young children?
- Do you keep hearing aids and batteries separate to any medications or lollies?
- Do you always dispose of batteries immediately and safely? *Batteries with no charge are still dangerous to children.*
- Do you check novelty items and toys such as flashing jewellery/clothes given to your children for button batteries?
- Have you entered the phone number of the [Poisons Information Centre](#) into your mobile phone? **13 11 26**

### Adults can accidentally swallow button batteries too.

Hearing aid batteries can look like medications especially in the dark. Follow the checklist above to reduce the risk of injury.