

FIRST AID FACT SHEET

Poisoning

Poisoning is a process of inhalation, ingestion, absorption or administration of a poisonous substance. Poisoning may be accidental or intentional and can occur from many different forms such as chemicals, alcohol, drugs, common plants, household items.

Caused by

- + Toxic fumes.
- + Toxic substances.

Signs & symptoms

Dependent on the nature of the substance, can include:

- + Confusion, drowsiness, delirium, seizures, unconsciousness.
- + Burns to skin, lips and throat.
- + Irritation to eyes and skin.
- + Respiratory distress, such as slow breathing or airway blockage.
- + Affected heart function.
- + Abdominal pain, nausea/vomiting, diarrhoea.
- + Blurred vision and headache.

What to do

1. Follow DRSABCD St John Action Plan.
2. Urgent medical aid required. Call **Triple Zero (000)** for an ambulance.
3. Call **Poisons Information 13 11 26** and/or follow instructions on any containers.
4. Send any vomit, containers or notes with the casualty to hospital.

Conscious casualty

1. Listen to the casualty and give reassurance.
2. Find out what sort of poison is involved and keep any containers for the medical aid to see.
3. **DO NOT** induce vomiting or give anything to eat or drink.
4. Wash any corrosive substance off the mouth and face with water, or wipe off.

Unconscious casualty

1. Place the casualty in the recovery position and continue to check their airway and breathing regularly.

Inhaled Poisons

1. Move casualty and yourself to fresh air.
2. Loosen tight clothing.

Absorbed Poisons

1. Protect yourself (if possible) use protective clothing such as gloves, goggles and so on.
2. Wash the substance off immediately.
3. Ask the casualty to remove any contaminated clothing.
4. Flush the casualty's skin with running water.

Injected

1. Follow DRSABCD St John Action Plan - avoid needle stick injuries to yourself and casualty.
2. Treat any other signs and symptoms. Send any empty syringes, bottles and vials with the casualty to hospital.



In a medical emergency
call **Triple Zero (000)**

Book a St John first aid course today | (08) 9334 1233 | stjohnambulance.com.au

Information provided is as per Australian Resuscitation Council Guidelines. These first aid protocols are for the Australian market only. All care has been taken in preparing this information but St John takes no responsibility for its use. This information is not a substitute for practical first aid training with St John.