

# Safe with Sam: facts for families

Cleaning and laundry products make our lives easier but sometimes they can hurt our children. It's not always obvious what things may be dangerous.

## Three reasons why cleaning things and children don't mix

- Little children put **EVERYTHING** in their mouths! It's natural, it helps them learn, but it's not good when it comes to laundry and cleaning things.
- Older children like to copy and help the grown-ups around them. Great! But not when they get into cleaning things that can hurt them.
- Laundry and cleaning things can be brightly coloured. Children may think they are sweets or toys, especially laundry capsules. But they need to be kept out of children's hands and mouths!

## Two top tips

Short on time? Follow our **two top tips** to keep your children safe:

- Keep your laundry and cleaning things on a high shelf or in a cupboard with a safety lock.
- Put your laundry and cleaning products away as soon as you've used them.



## Safety reminders

- Don't pour cleaning products into other bottles like drinks bottles. Children can get confused.
- Be careful round at friends' and relatives' homes, where children may find dangerous products under the sink or by the loo.
- Watch out for fast little fingers. Turn your back and they've taken the laundry capsule out of your washing machine! Close the door straight away.

## Did you know?

- Child safety tops slow children down. But they don't make bottles 'childproof'. Some 3 and 4 year-olds can open safety caps in seconds!
- Some products use a bitter safety ingredient. This makes them taste really nasty, so children are more likely to spit them out. But they won't work for every child.

**That's why it's a good idea to keep your laundry and cleaning things where children can't see them or reach them, on a high shelf or in a cupboard with a safety lock.**

## Help from Sam

Use the Safe with Sam story book to teach your children to ask a grown-up first before they drink anything they find around the house.



## First aid advice

Do you know what to do if your child has an accident with a cleaning or laundry product?

- If the product gets into a child's eyes, wash carefully with water. If the eye irritation carries on, get medical advice.
- If a child swallows a laundry or cleaning product, get medical advice. Don't make them sick or give them anything to eat or drink.
- Get medical help straight away if a child's mouth is burning or if they are being sick, blacking out, having fits or feeling very sleepy.

**Remember to have the product container with you when you get medical advice, as this will make it easier to provide the right treatment for your child.**