

Bathroom Safety



True Story

A 9-month-old boy was placed in a bathtub with his 2-year-old sister. The mother left the water running and the drain open. The mother took a telephone call and upon returning found that a bar of soap had lodged in the bathtub's drain and her son was floating face down in the bathtub. He died two days later at a hospital.

-From the files of MECAP
(Medical Examiners and Coroners Alert Project)

The Facts

- The combination of water, medications and electrical appliances make the bathroom an especially dangerous room of the home.
- Children younger than age 1 are at highest risk of death from an unintentional injury in the home.
- Children ages 1-4 have the highest rate of nonfatal unintentional injury in the home.
- About two-thirds of drowning deaths in the home, not including pools, occur in bathtubs.
- Toilets are often overlooked as a drowning hazard.

What You Can Do

- Make sure medications, including vitamins, prescription drugs and over-the-counter drugs, have child-resistant caps.
- Keep medicines and cleaning products in their original containers with the original labels intact, and keep them out of sight and out of reach.
- Never leave young children unattended near standing water – for example the bathtub or toilet – and stay within arm's reach of young children during bath time.
- Keep electrical appliances out of children's reach when they are bathing.
- Make sure all bathrooms are protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (plug-ins that automatically shut off if an appliance touches water).

Source: Home Safety Council



Led By

**BLANK CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL**
IOWA HEALTH SYSTEM

Safe Kids Greater Des Moines, led by Blank Children's Hospital, is a grassroots organization dedicated to preventing unintentional injury in children ages 0-14.

For more information call (515) 241-6293 or visit www.dsmsafekids.org.

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