

What should I do if I think my child has swallowed a button battery?

Contact details

Act quickly!

Remember, button batteries can cause severe internal bleeding and death. If you think your child may have swallowed a button battery, act quickly.

- Take them straight to A&E or dial 999 for an ambulance
- Do not allow your child to eat or drink
- Do not try and make your child sick

If you would like this information in a different language please contact:

Leicester City Council on
0116 454 1000

Leicestershire County Council on
0116 232 3232

Rutland County Council on
01572 722 577



lrsb.org.uk/children

lcitylscb.org

Published November 2018



Button batteries can kill if swallowed

Button batteries are the small round batteries that are found in some toys and everyday objects.

If swallowed the battery could cause death within a few hours.

What are they?



Button batteries are the very small disc shaped batteries found in many everyday gadgets and toys such as:

- novelty toys
- musical cards
- electronic thermometers
- musical books
- remote controls
- flameless candles
- key fobs
- hearing aids
- calculators
- watches



Why are they dangerous?

If a button battery is swallowed it could get stuck causing the child to choke and/or cause the battery to produce sodium hydroxide (caustic soda).

This is highly dangerous and can cause internal bleeding and/or burn a hole inside the body.

They can also cause damage if placed in ears or noses.

Serious damage occurs within hours and bleeding can result in death.



How can I protect my child?

Children under the age of six are most at risk.

Always keep batteries safely out of children's reach and securely fastened into toys/remotes etc.

Dispose of used batteries correctly – you can recycle them through kerbside recycling or at certain retailers.

Only buy toys from reputable toy shops and make sure they are CE marked.

