

# 5 Tips for Proper Storage of Medical Marijuana

Keeping Everyone Safe –  
What You Need to Know



A trip to the emergency department is always unwanted, and even more so when it's the result of unintentional ingestion of marijuana. Here are some tips on using and storing medical marijuana to help keep you, family members, pets, and friends safe.

## 1. Take as Directed

Follow doctor's recommendations, including dosing and scheduling instructions. Ask about potential interactions, side effects, and methods of ingestion. Use the same dispensary, if possible, for all recommendations and don't use expired products.

## 2. Keep Marijuana Up and Away

Children are naturally curious. Edible products may look harmless, but are incredibly potent. One marijuana cookie may contain enough THC to seriously harm a child or pet. Keep all recommended marijuana products out of reach and out of sight. The top of a cabinet is a good place; a lock box even better.

## 3. Know the Facts

Every product has its own percentage of THC and CBD. Ask questions, read labels, and understand the composition of any recommended product.

## 4. Talk It Out

As a family, talk about medical marijuana, including what it is and why you are the one responsible for it.

## 5. Make No Exceptions

Put marijuana away and always secure child safety caps. It only takes a second for a child to grab something, so don't leave it out and don't leave children unattended in the presence of any medication and recommended marijuana products.

## Medical Marijuana: What to NEVER Do

*Never* put a dose on a counter, in a pocket, purse, backpack, or anywhere a child might find it.

*Never* sell or share recommended marijuana or take a marijuana product that isn't yours.

*Never* transfer medical marijuana to another bottle or container. The label contains important information about that specific product.

## Medical Marijuana: What to ALWAYS Do

*Always* keep recommended marijuana products out of reach of anyone other than those who take or dispense it.

*Always* monitor the use of recommended marijuana for those under age 18.

*Always* get help with a poison exposure by calling Poison Control @ 1-800-222-1222 or visiting [webpoisoncontrol.org](http://webpoisoncontrol.org). Program the number in all your phones for easy access.

Researchers from Central Ohio Poison Center at Nationwide Children's Hospital<sup>1</sup> found from January 2000-June 2017 there were:

**2,968**

unintentional ingestions of marijuana  
by children younger than age 6

**72.4%**

of exposures were in children  
younger than age 3

**50%**

had to receive hospital care,  
including critical care

**70%**

of these cases occurred in states  
where marijuana is legal

## About This Campaign

Because much of the public conversation surrounding marijuana has been based on anecdotes rather than science, Prevention Action Alliance and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services created this campaign to help people better understand the facts about marijuana and its effects.

If you found this article helpful, we encourage you to share it with others. You can also find other fact sheets about marijuana at: [preventionactionalliance.org/marijuana](http://preventionactionalliance.org/marijuana)

If you have concerns about your own use of marijuana or a loved one's, and wish to seek help, go to: [findtreatment.samhsa.gov/](http://findtreatment.samhsa.gov/)

## Contact Us

For more information on Medical Marijuana, please contact us at:  
Prevention Action Alliance  
(614) 540-9985  
[preventionactionalliance.org](http://preventionactionalliance.org)

## About Us

Prevention  
Action Alliance

Prevention Action Alliance is a 501(c)3 nonprofit located in Columbus, Ohio. We're dedicated to leading healthy communities in the prevention of substance misuse and the promotion of mental health wellness. Learn more at [preventionactionalliance.org](http://preventionactionalliance.org).



The mission of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) is to provide statewide leadership on the topics of mental health and addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery. Learn more about OhioMHAS at [mha.ohio.gov](http://mha.ohio.gov).

1. [nationwidechildrens.org/newsroom/news-releases/2019/06/marijuana-ingestions-study](http://nationwidechildrens.org/newsroom/news-releases/2019/06/marijuana-ingestions-study)