

# MISTAKEN Identities



If it looks like cherry soda and it smells like cherry soda, then it must be cherry soda—right? Not always.

**Close your eyes.** Pretend for a moment that you are a hungry, thirsty and very curious young child who is exploring your home looking for something to eat or drink. You can't read labels so you rely on your most basic instincts and senses to understand the world around you. Your world is centered on taste, sight, touch and smell. If something looks pretty, feels nice or smells good, you might think it tastes good and is good for you.

- TASTE** Is it yummy or yukky?
- SIGHT** Is it pretty or ugly?
- TOUCH** Does it feel soft and smooth like preschool toys or sharp like a pin?
- SMELL** Does it smell sweet or foul?





**Now, open your eyes.** Look around your home. There probably are many common household products—stored within your child’s reach—that might be appealing to a young child because of the way they taste, look, feel or smell. When used correctly, household products are safe and useful. However, children unintentionally swallow products like mouthwash, furniture polish and dish detergent every day.

**Potential poisons are everywhere.**

## Play the **MISTAKEN IDENTITIES** Game

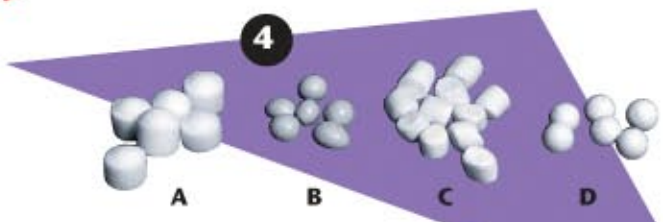
Test your knowledge of some common look-alike household products. Can you identify each item? In the following groups of products, circle the letter of the product that could be potentially poisonous.

**Remember:** There could be more than one dangerous substance in a group. (Answers below right.)

**Can you be sure what you’re looking at?**

**Are those pills or candy?**

**Is that cherry soda or lamp oil?**





7



A B C D

8



A B C D E

9



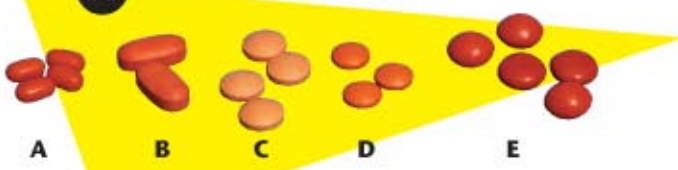
A B C D

10



A B C

11



A B C D E

12



A B C D

13



A B C D

### Mistaken Identity Answer Key

The item(s) printed in **bold** are the potentially poisonous products.

- |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. A. Potato Chips<br>B. <b>Plant Insecticide</b><br>C. Toilet Bowl Cleaner<br>D. Toilet Bowl Cleaner | 4. A. <b>Mothballs</b><br>B. Candy<br>C. Marshmallows<br>D. Gumballs  | 7. A. Cherry Soda<br>B. Mouthwash<br>C. Furniture Polish<br>D. Kerosene Lamp Oil                                    | 6. A. Chlorine Bleach<br>B. Drain Opener<br>C. Laundry Detergent<br>D. Milk | 12. A. Naval Jelly<br>B. Antacid Medication<br>C. Calamine Lotion<br>D. Caladryl Lotion |
| 2. A. Beer<br>B. Cherry Soda<br>C. <b>Diet Supplement</b>   | 5. A. Mustard<br>B. Baby Food<br>C. Vaseline<br>D. Scalp Conditioner  | 8. A. Window Cleaner<br>B. Dish Detergent<br>C. Water Bed Conditioner<br>D. Flavored Drink<br>E. After Shave Lotion | 10. A. Bleach<br>B. Oatmeal Cereal<br>C. Dishwasher Detergent               | 13. A. Airplane Glue<br>B. Acne Treatment<br>C. Toothpaste<br>D. Cake Decorating Icing  |
| 3. A. Aluminum Cleaner<br>B. Shampoo<br>C. Suntan Lotion  | 6. A. Bubble Bath<br>B. Witch Hazel (Astringent)<br>C. Dish Detergent | 11. A. Breath Fresheners<br>B. Vitamins<br>C. Pain Relievers<br>D. Vitamins<br>E. Laxatives                         |   |   |

The products selected for this brochure are used for demonstrative purposes only and were chosen solely based on the shape and/or color of the product container, and not as a representation that the products are poisonous if used in accordance with product directions. Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh makes no representations or warranties about the quality, utility or safety of the products pictured and no other use, statement or opinion about the products is intended.



# Poison Prevention Tips

There are ways to eliminate mistaken identity hazards and help prevent unintentional poisonings in your home.

## Remember these poison prevention tips:

- Young children are curious; things that look or smell good may end up in their mouths. Keep all potentially poisonous products up and out of the reach of children.
- Store poisons in their original containers.
- Use child-resistant packaging. But remember—nothing is child-proof.
- Read labels and follow the directions on all medicines and products.
- Lock products and medicines up after using them.
- If children are around, take the product or medicine with you if you need to leave the room.
- Call medicine by its proper name. Never call it candy.
- Children learn by imitation. Take your medicine where children can't watch.
- Many unintentional poisonings occur near mealtimes when children are hungry. Poisons can look like food and drink. Teach children to ask an adult before eating or drinking anything. Pay close attention to young children, especially at mealtimes.
- Children think that all poisons smell bad. Teach your children that things that smell good also may be harmful.
- Children think they can only be poisoned if they eat or drink something harmful. Teach your children that a poison is something that can cause injury, illness or death if you eat, drink or breathe it, or even get it on your skin or in your eyes.



**Use Mr. Yuk to teach your children about poisons and how to contact your poison center.**

If you suspect a poisoning emergency, call your local poison center at  
**1-800-222-1222**

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