

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

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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
- flameless candles
- remote controls
- hearing aids
- key fobs
- watches
- calculators



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.

