



Are you decking the halls with holly and mistletoe? Trimming the tree with your favorite bubbling lights, and topping off the branches with artificial snow?

Be cautious!

All of these and the following holiday plants and decorations make the **“Pretty Poisons of Christmas”** list!

Poisonous Plants:



Jerusalem Cherry (or Christmas Cherry): Can easily be mistaken for cherry tomatoes. Plant may grow as a weed in some areas or as house plants. This plant is poisonous to humans, dogs, cats and birds. Can cause vomiting, drowsiness or restlessness, redness of the skin and hallucinations.



Mistletoe: Relatively non-toxic in small amounts but, in large amounts, eating these plants and berries can cause seizures, slow heart rate, abnormal blood pressure, vomiting and even death. These effects may be more or less severe depending upon the amount and type of mistletoe plant eaten.



Holly Berries: Three or more berries, if eaten, can cause severe prolonged nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and drowsiness.



Yew: This evergreen shrub resembles a Christmas tree. Eating three or more of these red berries can cause vomiting, abdominal pain, difficulty breathing, dizziness and changes in a child's heart rate.



Poinsettia: For many years, poinsettias were considered deadly, but research has shown that, in most cases, children had no symptoms at all or experienced minor stomach upset or vomiting. The sap could cause a skin rash that should be washed off with soap and water. So, with caution, enjoy this beautiful Christmastime potted plant!





Among your gifts may be an abundance of aftershave lotions, perfumes and cologne. All of these products have a pretty appearance and can be an attraction to children, but can produce a toxic effect if ingested.

Potential poisons at Christmastime include lamp oil, potpourri, bubble lights, or tree ornaments that resemble candy or other food.



Holiday activities and entertaining increase the risk of an unintentional poisoning. Many poisonings occur when there is a distraction in the home, and there are plenty of those during the holidays, when decorating, cooking and giving gifts.

Keep the season safe by avoiding the above mentioned poisonous items, as well as holiday decorations that are sharp and/or breakable. Fire salts, which create a rainbow-colored flame when tossed onto a fire, also should be avoided since they contain heavy metals that cause vomiting and gastrointestinal irritation if ingested.



If you are anticipating a houseful of guests, make sure diaper bags, purses and travel bags are kept out of the reach of small children. Visitors' bags often contain prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications that can be harmful or fatal to small children.



The Oklahoma Poison Control Center is staffed by a team of highly qualified, specially trained nurses and pharmacists who can provide immediate assistance at any hour, day or night.



Always here, Always free

24-hour confidential poison hotline