



Section 15  
**Protecting Children  
from Hazards**





## Section 15

# Protecting Children from Hazards

This section looks at things operators have to do to protect children from certain hazards:

- mechanical, electrical
- medical supplies and poisons, including toxic plants
- kitchen tools and cleaning supplies
- firearms and ammunition
- smoking

# 15

**42(1)**

Children must be protected from radiators, water pipes, electrical outlets and toxic plants.

Regulation 42(1)

## **Mechanical and Electrical Hazards and Toxic Plants**

### **Why**

- To ensure that children are protected from mechanical and electrical hazards
- To ensure that children are protected from toxic plants

### **What it means**

- The operator must take deliberate steps to make sure children are not exposed to any of the hazards in the shaded box.
- Toxic plants means plants that are poisonous.
- Toxic plants should be removed from any areas that children can access.

### **How**

- If possible, lock rooms or areas of the facility, such as the room with the fuel or water tank, so that children cannot access them.
- Fence radiators and exposed water pipes.
- Put outlet caps in unused electrical outlets. Or install outlet covers that fit over the outlet like a standard outlet plate – when you unplug an appliance, a shield automatically slides into position to block the open outlet.
- Make sure children cannot access electrical outlets that are in use, for example a floor fan or light fixture. Purchase power bar safety covers to prevent children from being able to touch plugs and outlets.
- Tape any electrical cords to the floor to prevent children from tripping over them or picking them up.
- Make sure you know what plants you have both inside and outside the facility.
- Remove any poisonous plants from any areas that children can

**42(2)**

Medical supplies, poisonous substances and similar products must be stored in their original container in a locked cabinet or room that is accessible only to staff.

## Regulation 42(2)

**Storing Medical Supplies and Poisonous Products****Why**

- To ensure that children cannot access medical supplies – including medications
- To ensure that children cannot access any poisonous products

**What it means**

- The operator must keep medical supplies in their original containers, and follow any directions on the label, such as “keep refrigerated.”
- The operator must keep all medical supplies in a locked cabinet.
- The operator must keep poisonous products in a locked cabinet or a room that children cannot access.
- The operator must follow any directions on the label, such as “keep dry.”

**How**

- For medical supplies that need to be refrigerated keep a locked box, such as a fishing tackle box, in the refrigerator.
- For medical supplies that need to be at room temperature keep a second locked box.
- Replace any medical supplies that have passed their expiry date. DO NOT throw them in the garbage or flush them down the toilet. Take them to a drug store or health centre for proper disposal.
- Make sure you know what products you have with a poison or other hazard symbol.
- Remember, children can be poisoned by taking the wrong medication, or taking too much medication.
- Keep all products with a poison symbol in a locked cabinet or room that is accessible only by staff.
- Store medical supplies separately from poisonous products
- Replace any products past their expiry date. DO NOT throw them in the garbage or flush them down the toilet. Contact your municipal offices to find out how you can dispose poisonous garbage.

## 42(3)

Knives, kitchen tools and cleaning supplies must be stored in an area that is inaccessible to children.

Regulation 42(3)

## Storing Knives, Kitchen Tools and Cleaning Supplies

### Why

- To ensure that children cannot access knives and other kitchen tools
- To ensure that children cannot access cleaning supplies

### What it means





- The operator must take deliberate steps to store knives, kitchen tools, axes, carving tools, power tools and cleaning supplies so that children cannot access them.

### How

- Make sure all kitchen drawers and doors have child-proof locks, if children have access to the kitchen.
- Put away any knives, kitchen tools, axes, carving tools, power tools and cleaning supplies when they are not being used. Don't leave them on the counter.
- Keep all cleaning supplies in a locked room or cupboard.
- If children are in the kitchen area make sure they are directly supervised at all times.
- Know what cleaning supplies you have with hazard symbols.
- Teach children that when they see a container with a hazard symbol it means, "Stay away."
- Keep all kitchen tool, knives and cleaning supplies out of reach of children.

Resources

## The Hazard Symbols

Symbol	The danger	Product examples
Explosive 	This container can explode if it's heated or punctured. Flying pieces of metal or plastic can cause serious injuries, especially to the eyes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• oven cleaner in an aerosol container</li> <li>• spray paint in an aerosol container</li> </ul>
Corrosive 	This product will burn skin or eyes on contact, or throat and stomach if swallowed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• toilet bowl cleaner</li> <li>• oven cleaner</li> <li>• bleach</li> </ul>
Flammable 	This product, or its fumes, will catch fire easily if it's near heat, flames or sparks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• contact adhesives</li> <li>• gasoline</li> <li>• some furniture polish</li> </ul>
Poison 	Licking, eating, drinking, or sometimes smelling this product will cause illness or death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• wrong medication, or too much medication</li> </ul>

## **42(4)**

Firearms may be kept only in a family home day care facility and must be kept in a locked cabinet, separate from ammunition.

Regulation 42(4)

## **Conditions for Firearms and Ammunition in a Family Day Home**

### **Why**

- To protect children in family day homes from firearms and ammunition

### **What it means**

- This regulation applies only to operators of family day homes. If there are any firearms in a family day home, the operator must make sure that they are kept unloaded in a locked cabinet.
- If there is any ammunition in a family day home, the operator must make sure that it is kept in a locked cabinet, but not the same one as the firearm(s).
- The operator must meet all legal requirements associated with firearms.



**43(1)**

Smoking is prohibited in any area of a centre day care facility that is used by children.

## Regulation 43(1)

**No Smoking****Why**

- To protect children, staff and volunteers from second-hand smoke
- To ensure that adults model healthy behaviour

**What it means**

- No person is allowed to smoke or use any tobacco, including chewing tobacco, in any area of a child care centre at any time, including after hours.
- No person is allowed to smoke illegal drugs in any area of a child care facility at any time, including after hours.
- Make sure you comply with the *Tobacco Control Act* as well as any staff or volunteers.

**How**

- Make sure that no one smokes or uses any tobacco products, including chewing tobacco, in the centre at any time, including after hours. This includes, parents and elders. There should be no smoking at all times.
- Make sure no one is smoking illegal drugs in the facility at any time, including after hours.
- If staff or volunteers smoke:
  - provide a smoking area outside the facility that is at least three metres from any entrance or exit (required by the *Environmental Tobacco Smoke Worksite Regulations*), not in an area where children have to pass by in order to get in and out of the building (e.g., bottom of stairs or end of a ramp) and not in view of children; and
  - ensure that they wash their hands after smoking and before interacting with children or preparing food.

**43(2)**

The staff of a family home day care facility are prohibited from smoking while preparing food or holding a child.

## Regulation 43(2)

**No Smoking When Preparing Food in a Family Day Home****Why**

- To protect children from second-hand smoke
- To ensure that adults model healthy behaviour
- To prevent bacteria in the mouth from getting into food

**What it means**

- No person is allowed to smoke or use any tobacco, including chewing tobacco, in any area of a family day home when children who are being cared for by the operator are present.
- No person is allowed to smoke illegal drugs in any area of a family day home when children who are being cared for by the operator are present.
- This regulation applies only to operators of family day homes.
- Since no smoking is allowed in family day homes when the children are present, this regulation focuses on food preparation after hours.
- If the operator is preparing food for use in the program the next day, or at a later date, the operator must not smoke while preparing the food.

**How**

- Make sure that no one smokes or uses any tobacco products, including chewing tobacco, in any area of a family day home when the children that you are caring for are present. This includes areas of the home that are not used for the early childhood program.
- Make sure that no one smokes illegal drugs in any area of a family day home when the children who are being cared for by the operator are present. This includes areas of the home that are not used for the early childhood program.
- If you smoke:
  - you must do so outside the home and ask your designated back-up person to supervise the children. You cannot just slip out for a smoke because that would leave the children unsupervised,
  - you cannot smoke outside the home while supervising children playing because the area where children are playing is part of the worksite,
  - make sure that you wash your hands after smoking and before interacting with children or handling food.

## **Recommendation**

An operator of a family home day care facility shall notify the parents of the children attending the facility if tobacco use is permitted in the facility during periods when day care is not being provided.

Recommendation

## **Smoking in a Family Day Home After Hours**

### **Why**

- To inform parents if smoking is permitted in a family day home when the facility is not operating.

### **What it means**

- The operator shall notify parents if tobacco, including chewing tobacco, is permitted in the home after the hours that the family day home operates.

