

Wanganui Chronicle (/)

Search

[Visit our marketplace \(/marketplace/\)](#)



- [Home \(/\)](#)
- [News \(/local/news/\)](#)
- [Opinion \(/opinion/news/\)](#)
- [Sport \(/sport/news/\)](#)
- [Business \(/business/news/\)](#)
- [Entertainment \(/entertainment/\)](#)

[Buy Local \(http://www.wanganuichronicle.co.nz/marketplace/\)](http://www.wanganuichronicle.co.nz/marketplace/)

Tiny killers lurk at home

John Maslin | Monday, May 28, 2012 7:02 [1 Comment](#)

0

Twe

Wanganui parents are being urged to make sure their children don't get their hands on tiny lithium batteries, because if they are swallowed they cause severe internal burns.

Safekids New Zealand has launched a home safe campaign targeting items that were often within easy reach of toddlers, especially lithium batteries.

Marianne Vine, public health nurse with the Whanganui District Health Board, said many home appliances and toys were powered by lithium batteries, including mini-remote controls, singing greeting cards, watches, bathroom scales and flameless candles. Ms Vine said when a button battery came into contact with bodily fluids it created an electrical current.

"It takes as little as two hours to cause severe burns once a coin-sized lithium battery has been swallowed and, once the burning begins, damage can continue even after the battery is removed.

"Kids can still breathe with the coin lithium battery in their throat, and it may not be obvious at first that something is wrong," she said.

Ms Vine said all children went through an "oral phase" when they put all manner of things in their mouths.

"The lithium batteries are an issue, but so too are things like small magnets, and some of them are the types people have on their fridges at home."

"One swallowed may not be a problem and will probably pass through the body, but two magnets could easily join up and created a blockage which would require surgery to remove them."

She said she was not aware of any child having been admitted to Wanganui Hospital after swallowing either batteries or magnets, but parents should be aware.



LETHAL LITHIUM: Tiny lithium batteries like these, are deadly in the wrong hands, a swallowed can cause severe internal burns within hours. PHOTO/BEVAN CONLEY

Related

[Danger lurks at home \(/news/danger-lurks-at-home/1397818/\)](#)

Martin Rushton, Ministry of Consumer Affairs principal adviser, said overseas evidence showed that button batteries were an "emerging risk" found in an increasing range of devices and new lithium ion types were much more powerful.

In the United States, more than 19 children sustained life-threatening or debilitating injuries in 2010 and the ministry was aware of at least four injury in New Zealand, though less serious incidents were likely to be under-reported.

Safekids NZ said on average 22 Kiwi kids were admitted to hospitals every day with unintentional injuries or accidents. And for young children birth to four years - most of these happened at home.

Ann Weaver, Safekids director, said young children were injured more at home because this was where they spent most of their time and to le chance of injuries, taking a look at the home from a child's perspective was a good option.

She said getting down on hands and knees gave a child's eye view of the home, where often things were in easy reach.

She said serious or fatal accidents included fires started by children playing with matches and lighters, poisoning after swallowing adult medici crushed by heavy appliances or swallowing button batteries.

SAFE AS HOUSES

Search your home or any place your child goes for gadgets that may contain button batteries

Secure lithium coin battery-powered devices out of sight and reach of children and keep loose batteries locked away

If a child swallows a battery, go to the hospital emergency department immediately

Do not let the child eat or drink until a chest x-ray can determine if a battery is present, and do not induce vomiting



Special Offers



• **Rockies Rail Deals** (<http://data.apn.co.nz/apnzz/adclick/FCID=14134>) (<http://data.apn.co.nz/apnzz/adclick/FCID=14134>)

• **Fiji Family Hols** (<http://data.apn.co.nz/apnzz/adclick/FCID=14135>)

• **Pacific Pearl Cruise** (<http://data.apn.co.nz/apnzz/adclick/FCID=14136>)



• **Get the latest local news headlines direct to your inbox. Register here** (<http://data.apn.co.nz/apnzz/adclick/FCID=16330>)

(<http://data.apn.co.nz/apnzz/adclick/FCID=16330>)



(<http://data.apn.co.nz/apnzz/adclick/FCID=17887>)
• **Wanganui Christadelphians. Join us ea Tuesday at 7.30pm. 138 Great North Ro:** (<http://data.apn.co.nz/apnzz/adclick/FCID=17887>)

1 Comment

Opine
Wanganui
May 29, 2012 11:37

The headline of this story would serve better if it covered the many tiny killers that lurk at home, including toys for older children, aspirins and other medications . Many adults do not know of the dangers of small children swallowing foods without chewing them properly, which can cause choking , or food can be ingested into the lungs, either of which can be fatal. Peanuts can be particularly dangerous to under threes even when no allergy exists.

Suggest removal
([comments](#)
[flag/331267/](#))

Not registered? [Register here to make a comment \(/my-account/register/?next=\)](#)

Already registered? Login and comment

Email / Username

Password

[Forgot your password? \(/my-account/password-reset/?next=\)](#)

OR

Use your Facebook account to log in

[Login with Facebook](#)

Login



Tweet 0

Share



Email



Print

[Local News \(/local/news\)](#)

[Switch to:](#)

[Guitar star for over 50 years \(/news/guitar-star-for-over-50-years/1404056/\)](#)

[A royal rally He's not bugged \(/news/a-royal-rally-hes-not-bugged/1404059/\)](#)

[Labour looks ahead \(/news/labour-looks-ahead/1404061/\)](#)

[Merit recognition for lively Cunniffe \(/news/merit-recognition-for-lively-cunniffe/1404055/\)](#)

[Pensioner flat overhaul \(/news/pensioner-flat-overhaul/1404060/\)](#)

[Local News Archive \(/local/news\)](#)



Popular

1 [Artefacts saved for posterity \(/news/artefacts-saved-for-posterity/1403388/\)](#)

[7 Comments \(/news/artefacts-saved-for-posterity/1403388/#comments\)](#)

2 [Boy racers terrorise suburb \(/news/boy-racers-terrorise-suburb/1403387/\)](#)

[3 Comments \(/news/boy-racers-terrorise-suburb/1403387/#comments\)](#)

3 [Principals irked by funding \(/news/principals-irked-by-funding/1403390/\)](#)

[4 Comments \(/news/principals-irked-by-funding/1403390/#comments\)](#)

4 [Guitar star for over 50 years \(/news/guitar-star-for-over-50-years/1404056/\)](#)

[Have your say \(/news/guitar-star-for-over-50-years/1404056/#comments\)](#)

5 [Thirsty Liquor loses its licence \(/news/thirsty-liquor-loses-its-licence/1400524/\)](#)

[7 Comments \(/news/thirsty-liquor-loses-its-licence/1400524/#comments\)](#)

Jobs



[\(http://jobs.wanganuichronicle.co.nz/jobs/\)](http://jobs.wanganuichronicle.co.nz/jobs/)

[\(http://jobs.wanganuichronicle.co.nz/jobs/\)](http://jobs.wanganuichronicle.co.nz/jobs/)

Property



[\(http://property.wanganuichronicle.co.nz/property/\)](http://property.wanganuichronicle.co.nz/property/)

[\(http://property.wanganuichronicle.co.nz/property/\)](http://property.wanganuichronicle.co.nz/property/)

Motoring



[\(http://cars.wanganuichronicle.co.nz/\)](http://cars.wanganuichronicle.co.nz/)

[\(http://cars.wanganuichronicle.co.nz/\)](http://cars.wanganuichronicle.co.nz/)

Subscriptions



[\(/homedelivery/\)](/homedelivery/)

[\(/homedelivery/\)](/homedelivery/)

Wanganui Chronicle

[About us \(/aboutus/\)](/aboutus/)

[Contact us \(/contactus/\)](/contactus/)

[Make us your Homepage \(/pages/makemyhomepage/\)](/pages/makemyhomepage/)

[Competitions \(/competitions/\)](/competitions/)

[Services](#)

[Online advertising \(http://www.apnonlineregionals.co.nz/\)](http://www.apnonlineregionals.co.nz/)

[Print advertising \(http://www.soldonapn.co.nz/\)](http://www.soldonapn.co.nz/)

[Digital edition \(http://apnregionalnz.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/viewer.aspx\)](http://apnregionalnz.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/viewer.aspx)

[Advertise with us \(/advertisewithus/\)](/advertisewithus/)

[Photo sales \(/photosales/\)](/photosales/)

[Site registration \(/register/\)](#)

Your feedback

[Like us on Facebook \(http://www.facebook.com/pages/Wanganui-Chronicle/168610521552\)](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Wanganui-Chronicle/168610521552)

[Follow us on Twitter \(http://twitter.com/#!/lovethispaper\)](http://twitter.com/#!/lovethispaper)

[Letters to the Editor \(/letterstotheeditor/\)](#)

Our Partners

[Grabone \(http://www.grabone.co.nz/home\)](http://www.grabone.co.nz/home)

[Sella \(http://www.sella.co.nz\)](http://www.sella.co.nz)

[Eventfinder \(http://www.eventfinder.co.nz\)](http://www.eventfinder.co.nz)

[NZ Herald \(http://www.nzherald.co.nz\)](http://www.nzherald.co.nz)

Regional Websites

[The Aucklander \(http://www.theaucklander.co.nz\)](http://www.theaucklander.co.nz)

[Bay of Plenty Times \(http://www.bayofplentytimes.co.nz\)](http://www.bayofplentytimes.co.nz)

[Rotorua Daily Post \(http://www.rotorudailypost.co.nz\)](http://www.rotorudailypost.co.nz)

[Hawkes Bay Today \(http://www.hawkesbaytoday.co.nz\)](http://www.hawkesbaytoday.co.nz)

[Northern Advocate \(http://www.northernadvocate.co.nz\)](http://www.northernadvocate.co.nz)

[Stratford Press \(http://www.stratfordpress.co.nz\)](http://www.stratfordpress.co.nz)

[Wairarapa Times-Age \(http://www.times-age.co.nz\)](http://www.times-age.co.nz)

[Wanganui Chronicle \(http://www.wanganuichronicle.co.nz\)](http://www.wanganuichronicle.co.nz)

[Star Canterbury \(http://www.starcanterbury.co.nz\)](http://www.starcanterbury.co.nz)

[Oamaru Mail \(http://www.oamarumail.co.nz\)](http://www.oamarumail.co.nz)

[Privacy Policy \(/legal/\)](#)

[Terms of Use \(/legal/#terms\)](#)

Copyright 2012, APN Holdings NZ Limited