

BUTTON BATTERY | February 28, 2012

Button battery dangers



Elizabeth Tabler

Chicago Tutoring Examiner



(<http://www.examiner.com/tutoring-in-chicago/button-batteries-photo>)

Button batteries - small but deadly

Credits:

<http://www.childinjurylawyerblog.com>

/Household%20Products%20Button%20Batteries%20Dangers.jpg

Safety is at the utmost importance for parents and teachers. These advanced yet small household items, usually found in watches, remote controls, singing greeting cards, bathroom scales, car keys and hearing aides, have lead to ingestion, which end in death in some cases. "When swallowed, these batteries can get stuck in the throat and cause severe burns. Small children often have easy access to these devices, and many parents do not know there is a risk" according to **The Battery Controlled produced by Energizer and Safe Kids** (<http://thebatterycontrolled.com/>). Recently, a child had a button battery incident where the internal organs were damaged and surgery was necessary to complete a healthy life

afterwards.

These small circular batteries can be produced from zinc, lithium, manganese dioxide, silver oxide, carbon monofluoride, cupric oxide or mercuric oxide. Due to the harmful nature of mercury, those produced with mercuric oxide are no longer available commercially, but may be found in antique watches.

According to **CBS News** (<http://www.cbsnews.com>

/8301-504763_162-20106215-10391704.html), "Eleven children have died from swallowing button batteries over the past six years. The National Capital Poison Center said 3,500 swallowing cases are reported each year. Dr. Litovitz said severe and fatal swallowing injuries have increased sevenfold since 1985. Part of the reason is the increased use of lithium, which gives batteries more power - but also makes them more dangerous."

In a press release made by **Safe Kids USA and Energizer on Sep 14, 2011** (<http://www.safekids.org/our-work/news-press/press-releases/safe-kids-usa-and-energizer.html>), parents and teachers should follow these guidelines:

- Examine devices and make sure the battery compartment is secure.

- Keep coin-sized button batteries and devices out of sight and out of reach.
- Go to the emergency room immediately if swallowing is suspected.
- Call the National Battery Ingestion Hotline at 202-625-3333 for additional treatment information.
- Tell others about this threat and share these steps.

Related topics:

[button battery](#), [child dangers](#), [battery danger](#), [button battery danger](#)

**Elizabeth Tabler**, Chicago Tutoring Examiner

Elizabeth Tabler received her B.S. from Illinois State University and her M.S.Ed. from Walden University. She is currently a Chemistry and Physics teacher in the south suburbs of Chicago, Illinois. Elizabeth is passionate about teaching and collaboration with other teachers. Elizabeth...