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Thousands Of Toddlers Swallow Small Button Batteries Each Year

Stephanie Wilson ■ 15 hrs ago

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WASHINGTON, DC (WUSA) -- "It just really changes you. There's no greater loss than the loss of a child," says Lonnie Truett.

He and his wife Michelle's youngest son, Aidan, died after he swallowed a tiny battery.

"There's no describing the everyday pain," the dad says.

[Consumer Reports](#) say these tiny lithium button-cell batteries are found in products like children's toys, clocks, remotes, watches, even musical greeting cards.

In products, like talking children's books, a child cannot get access to the battery.

"Musical books are regulated as toys. So, you need a screwdriver to open the battery," Don Mays says.

But, musical greeting cards are different. A child can tear open the card and get to the battery.

And, the tiny batteries for small remotes, for example an iPod docking station, are also easily accessible.

Mays says, "These batteries are smaller and easier for a child to swallow. And, the injuries can be severe. They can actually burn a hole through a child's esophagus."

To demonstrate the danger, a button cell battery is placed between two slices of ham.

"After three days, the battery burned the top piece of ham. But, it actually burned a hole in the bottom piece of ham," says consumer expert Don Mays.



Deadly Batteries That Are Cute As A Button



The Truetts don't know where Aidan found the battery he swallowed. But, they removed all button cell batteries from the home.

"There's no sense in keeping them around because your child's life is not worth it," says Michelle Truett.

The number one safety rule you can follow is to keep button cell batteries out of the reach of your child.

Be aware, not all greeting cards pose a risk, some come with a secure cover over the battery.

And, that safety experts say, is a far safer design.



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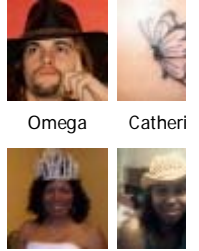
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