

Poisoning prevention checklist

for people living with dementia



This checklist is designed as a simple assessment and does not replace professional advice. (Please place a tick in the relevant box)

Storage and labelling

- | | Yes | No |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Are all medicines and cleaning products stored in their original labelled containers? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are cleaning, laundry and garden care products stored separately from food and drinks? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are cupboards or storage areas clearly labelled or marked to distinguish food from non-food items? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Have you removed or replaced unnecessary highly toxic products with safer alternatives? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are toxic items kept out of sight or reach, preferably in a locked cupboard, for someone who has memory or vision issues? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Medication management

- | | Yes | No |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Is there a routine in place to ensure that the person is taking the right dose at the right time? (consider lockable pill organisers, alarms, carers checking packaging to ensure medication has been taken correctly) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are medicines in suitable packaging? For those with dexterity issues, easy to manage packaging can be requested from the pharmacy. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are expired or unused medicines disposed of safely by returning them to the pharmacy? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Is a healthcare professional checking the person's medications regularly to see if they're still needed? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Risk awareness and environment monitoring

- | | Yes | No |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Do carers regularly check if the person's ability to use products safely has changed? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are signs of accidental misuse or confusion being monitored? (e.g. cleaning products near food, medicines left in unusual places) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Is the home regularly checked for toxic items? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Next steps

- If the answer to a question is “no,” there are still helpful changes that can be made to reduce the risk of accidental poisoning
- You can take some practical steps to help keep things safer, like storing non-edible and hazardous items separately from food and drink, choosing safer product alternatives, or arranging medication support
- Review this checklist regularly, and whenever health or circumstances change.

Scan for more guidance

