

# What should I do if I think my child has swallowed a button battery?

## Contact details

### Act quickly!

- If you think your child may have swallowed a button battery, act quickly.
  - Take them straight to A&E or dial 999 for an ambulance
  - Do not allow your child to eat or drink
  - Do not try and make your child sick
- Button batteries can cause severe internal bleeding and death

If you would like this information in a different language please contact:

Leicester City Council on  
0116 454 1000

Leicestershire County Council on  
0116 232 3232

Rutland County Council on  
01572 722 577



[lrsb.org.uk/children](http://lrsb.org.uk/children)  
[lcitylscb.org](http://lcitylscb.org)

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## Button batteries can kill if swallowed

Button batteries are the small round batteries that are found in some toys and everyday objects. If swallowed the battery could cause death within a few hours.

# What are they?



Button batteries are the very small disc shaped batteries found in many everyday gadgets and toys such as:

- novelty toys
- electronic thermometers
- remote controls
- key fobs
- calculators
- musical cards
- musical books
- flameless candles
- hearing aids
- watches



# Why are they dangerous?

If a button battery is swallowed it could get stuck causing the child to choke and/or cause the battery to produce sodium hydroxide (caustic soda).

This is highly dangerous and can cause internal bleeding and/or burn a hole inside the body.

They can also cause damage if placed in ears or noses.

Serious damage occurs within hours and bleeding can result in death.

# How can I protect my child?

Children under the age of six are most at risk.

Always keep batteries safely out of children's reach and securely fastened into toys/remotes etc.

Dispose of used batteries correctly – you can recycle them through kerbside recycling or at certain retailers.

Only buy toys from reputable toy shops and make sure they are CE marked.

