

# Liquid Nicotine: Danger to Children



## What is liquid nicotine and why is it a danger?

Liquid nicotine or e-juice is concentrated nicotine used in electronic cigarettes. Propylene glycol, glycerin, or other chemicals may be in the liquid. The variety of flavors such as red bull, root beer, cotton candy, strawberry, and juicy fruit, can be enticing to children. The liquid is easily absorbed if spilled on the skin or the eyes, or taken by mouth. The containers may be confused with other look-a-like packaging. Concentrations can vary and may not be reflected accurately on labels.

## How does an electronic cigarette work?

Inhaling from the mouthpiece of the e-cigarette, the battery begins heating the liquid nicotine to form a vapor. The person smoking the e-cigarette then inhales the vapor.

## Typical liquid nicotine poisoning scenarios:

- Dad confuses liquid nicotine dropper bottle for child's medication eye drops
- Toddler confuses juicy fruit nicotine liquid dropper bottle for candy and ingests liquid nicotine
- Parent spills liquid nicotine on arm of child while trying to fill up e-cigarette cartridge

**CT Poison Control Center**  
**Poison HELP 24/7**  
**800.222.1222**  
[poisoncontrol.uhc.edu/](http://poisoncontrol.uhc.edu/)

## Signs & Symptoms:

- Pale and sweaty
- Dizziness
- Headache
- Increase in blood pressure and pulse
- Tremor
- Nausea and vomiting
- With severe toxicity: confusion, weakness, seizures, decrease in blood pressure and pulse

## # of Exposures Involving E-Cigarettes or Liquid Nicotine in USA

2013 = 1,414

2014 (through 3/24/14) = 651

## Prevention Tips:

- ✓ Always keep e-cigarette devices and liquid nicotine locked up and out of the reach of children.
- ✓ Follow the specific disposal instructions on the label.
- ✓ Teach children to always ask first.
- ✓ Use caution when handling liquid nicotine. Protect skin while using and wash hands after using.
- ✓ If you think someone has been exposed to an e-cigarette device or liquid nicotine call the Connecticut Poison Control Center at 1.800.222.1222 immediately.

CT Poison Control Center, UConn Health Center, 2014 [http://poisoncontrol.uhc.edu/pdfs/flyer\\_liquid\\_nicotine\\_facts.pdf](http://poisoncontrol.uhc.edu/pdfs/flyer_liquid_nicotine_facts.pdf)  
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a program of the Connecticut Center  
for Prevention, Wellness and Recovery

**800.232.4424 (phone)**

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**[www.ctclearinghouse.org](http://www.ctclearinghouse.org)**

A Library and Resource Center on Alcohol, Tobacco, Other Drugs, Mental Health and Wellness