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# Lamp Oil

**Article type:**

poison information

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**Lamp Oil:** Used in oil lamps. torches and lanterns.

**What is in it:** Contains mineral oil or refined kerosene (so that it burns without soot). Usually has the viscosity or thickness of water. May have colour or fragrance added.

**Is it toxic?** May cause coughing, difficulty breathing and pneumonia if aspirated ( or "goes down the wrong way") into the lungs.

**Health Effects:**

**Eyes:** Possible irritation

**Skin:** Possible irritation, redness and a dryness. Prolonged contact may cause more severe irritation.

**Ingestion:** Irritation to mouth and throat, possible upset stomach and diarrhea. If aspirated (or "goes down the wrong way") into the lungs may cause coughing, choking and difficulty breathing.

## What to do:

**Eyes:** Rinse eyes with lukewarm water with one of the following methods:

- Pour a gentle stream of water from a jug or clean teapot over the eye from the inside corner by the nose, across the eye, flowing out towards the ear.
- Submerge eye in a container (bowl, sink) of lukewarm water. Have patient open and close eye.
- Eye may be irrigated in the shower if this can be accomplished without delay.
- Young children may be wrapped like a mummy in a towel with arms at side and held over sink or tub or laid on counter during flushing.

**Skin:** Wash skin with soap and water and rinse thoroughly.

**Ingestion:** **Do not induce vomiting** as this increases the risk of getting it into the lungs.

Rinse out mouth and drink a few sips of water or milk. **Contact the Poison Control Centre.**

**How can I prevent exposure?** Keep out of reach of children. Always store lamp oil in its original container. **Do not** put lamp oil into beverage containers such as water bottles.

**Clean up instructions:** Wear gloves when cleaning contaminated surfaces. Use a mild detergent such as dish soap.

**Need more information:** Call the Poison Control Centre.

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## Keywords:

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