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# Dieffenbachia

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**Dieffenbachia:** A common house plant also known as "dumb cane". The large leaves are green with cream-colored blotches.

**Is it toxic?** All parts of the plant contain needle-like oxalate crystals. If the plant is chewed the crystals are released and can cause intense pain and possible swelling of the mouth.

### **Health Effects:**

**Skin:** Potential burning and itching from contact with the "juice " of the plant. Handling of intact leaves is unlikely to cause symptoms.

**Ingestion:** Immediate pain and burning sensation of the mouth and lips. Possible swelling and blisters in mouth; more likely to occur if stem is chewed.

### **What to do?**

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

**Ingestion:** Rinse out mouth and drink a glass of milk. Sucking on a popsicle or an ice cube can help relieve discomfort in mouth. Eating some ice cream may also help.

**If symptoms persist after the above first aid measures contact the Poison Control Centre.**

**How can I prevent exposure?** Keep plant out of reach of small children. Wear gloves when cutting or trimming the plant.

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

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