



Figure 1: Responsible marijuana and marijuana product storage can reduce accidental ingestion by children and pets.

Safe Marijuana Storage:

Know Before You Stow

Medical and adult-use marijuana possession and consumption is legal in Montana. Safely storing your marijuana products is imperative; these products can have serious health consequences for children and pets.

Most accidental marijuana exposures (98 percent) occurred in residential settings. The number of exposures, as well as hospital admissions, rose during the pandemic years, possibly due to children spending more time at home with more opportunity to access their parents' edibles.

Some factors to consider to safely and securely storing personal marijuana products include:

- Does the product have any indications that it contains marijuana?
- Marijuana and marijuana products should be kept in their original labeling and packaging.
- Finding a secure place to effectively store marijuana & marijuana products.
- Keeping a list of the marijuana and marijuana products that are currently in the home.
- Recognizing the signs of an accidental ingestion or overconsumption of marijuana and marijuana products.
- Would **YOU** know what to do in the event of an accidental ingestion or overconsumption of marijuana?

Responsible Storage Tips:

1. Know how to recognize products that contain marijuana via their labeling and packaging:

- Montana's Cannabis Control Division requires all regulated marijuana and marijuana products sold in the state to display the required universal symbol (pictured below) on their labeling and packaging of marijuana and marijuana products.



Figure 2: Marijuana and marijuana products regulated and sold in the state of Montana must have this universal symbol on its label or package in this color and format. This symbol can assist in recognizing that a product contains marijuana.

- Additionally, all regulated marijuana and marijuana products in Montana must include the required statement, "**This product has been tested and meets the requirements of the state of Montana.**"

2. Keep marijuana/marijuana products in their original packaging and labeling:

- Marijuana products, particularly edibles, can be mistaken for regular food or candy. Keeping marijuana products in their **original packaging** can reduce confusion and may help prevent accidental ingestion.
- Keep the **original labels** on marijuana or marijuana products purchased from retailers so that you are aware of the amount of THC (Delta-9, the cannabinoid that makes people feel “high”) that the product contains; this can assist medical personnel if they need to be contacted.



Figure 3: Would you be able to tell if this brownie contained marijuana? Keeping marijuana products in their original packaging with their original labels can assist in deterring accidental ingestion of marijuana and marijuana products.

3. Find a secure/effective spot to store marijuana product away from children and from pets:

- Store the marijuana/marijuana products (in their original packaging and labeling) in a container (preferably locked) and place that container inside of a high cabinet that is out of the sight or reach of small children and pets.
- A **safe or lock box** can be an especially useful tool for securing and storing marijuana, particularly with older children in the home. Many different types and styles of safes and lock boxes are available for purchase at local stores or from online retailers.



Figure 4: A safe or lockbox can be a practical instrument to combat accidental ingestion of marijuana products by children or pets.

4. Create and maintain a list of the marijuana products that are currently in the residence:

- Create a list of the marijuana products that are currently in the home. This can assist with medical treatment in the event of accidental ingestion by a child or a pet, or, of overconsumption of a marijuana product by an adult.
- Once the list is created, be sure to update it as you consume or replace your marijuana products.



Figure 5: Make a list of the current marijuana products in your home and update that list as needed.

5. Know who to contact in the event of accidental ingestion or overconsumption of marijuana products:

○ For **adults and children:**

- Contact the **Poison Control Center**

Poison Control
800-222-1222

- Contact your **local health provider**
- Contact 9-1-1

○ For **pets:**

- Contact the **Animal Poison Control Center**

Animal Posion Control
888-426-4435

- Contact your **local veterinarian**



Figure 6: Pay attention to possible symptoms that correlate with accidental marijuana product ingestion or overconsumption.

Sources:

Website: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/parenting/2023/01/03/edibles-kids-increasing/>