

Battery safety

Button batteries can cause serious harm and death in as little as two hours if swallowed and can cause serious injuries if they become lodged in the nose or ear.

If you suspect your child or relative has swallowed a button battery:

- Take them straight to your nearest Emergency Department or dial 999 for an ambulance.
- Tell the hospital staff there that you think your child/relative has swallowed a button battery.
- Take a similar battery and the packaging with you. This will help the doctor identify the type of battery swallowed and make treatment easier.
- Do not let your child/relative eat or drink.
- Do not make them sick.
- You must attend A&E even if your child/relative is showing no symptoms.

Keeping hearing aid batteries safe

- Keep new/spare batteries in their original blister packaging in a sealed container and out of the sight and reach of children and vulnerable adults.
- When opening the battery package, take care to ensure they do not fall on the floor.
- Recycle batteries safely and as quickly as possible.
- Batteries have occasionally been mistaken for pills. Therefore, patients should check their medicine carefully before swallowing any pills, and batteries should be kept in a different place from medicines.
- Keep hearing aids (even those fitted with childproof battery locks) out of the sight and reach of young children and vulnerable adults when not in use.

For more information visit

www.gov.uk/government/news/button-batteries-campaign-how-to-stay-safe

Audiologist contact details: