

KEEP PRODUCTS CONTAINING CAMPHOR AWAY FROM CHILDREN!

WARNING: Some camphor products can be toxic to children when accidentally ingested or excessively applied to skin. Camphor, *alconfor* in Spanish, is a common ingredient in many products used for colds, pest control, to ward off illness, or as air freshener. Camphor is sold in cubes or as a balm or ointment. Camphor cubes and tablets are not approved by the FDA for use as cough or cold medicine. Camphor products that are not labeled with ingredients and do not have manufacturer information should not be used: ***they are illegal and unsafe***. Legal camphor products, such as some chest rubs to relieve congestion, should only be used as directed on the label.

Camphor products can be very dangerous for children - swallowing camphor or applying it in large amounts to a child can cause seizures. Symptoms of camphor poisoning in children include stomachache, nausea, vomiting, irritability, agitation, and seizures. Symptoms may occur very quickly after exposure - as early as 5 to 20 minutes after exposure.

ADVICE FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

- Do not use any product without an ingredient label, manufacturers name and address – these products are illegal and unsafe.
- Keep all camphor products out of the reach of children.
- Do not scatter camphor products around the house or use them in humidifiers.
- Do not attach them to your child as a bracelet or hang them near your child.
- Do not use camphor for pest control. Use only safer pest control products such as boric acid, gels and baits for cockroaches, and glue traps or bait in enclosed tamper-proof containers for rodents.

If you suspect that your child has eaten any products containing camphor (*alconfor*), call the Poison Control Center
24 hours a day at **1-800-222-1222**

FOR STORES THAT SELL PRODUCTS THAT CONTAIN CAMPHOR

- Do not sell camphor-containing over-the-counter medications unless approved by FDA and properly labeled.
- Do not sell camphor-containing products as pesticides unless approved by the environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and properly labeled.
- The Health Department will be working with distributors and store owners to remove any illegal camphor products from store shelves.

Contact the Health Department for more information or to report suspected illegal products on store shelves.

Somerville-Raritan-Manville Health Department
725-2300 EXTENSION 1982