



HAND SANITIZERS



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Safe when used as directed, DANGEROUS IF INGESTED

According to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, sanitizers can irritate the lining of the throat and cause gastrointestinal issues. A small amount can lead to alcohol poisoning. Most gels contain approximately 60% ethanol or isopropyl alcohol. A 240ml bottle is the equivalent of five shots of hard alcohol (exceeding 120 proof).

Container Confusion

COVID-19 response caused a supply shortage of sanitizer products. Companies produced containers that look similar to other products; some include "edible" on the label. Pay attention to shapes and labels. Keep these and other sanitizing products out of the reach of children.



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Appealing to Children

Sanitizers may have food like scents or "flavors" and come in packages shaped like food. A minimal amount ingested by children, such as would occur with hand licking, will not likely be dangerous.

TODDLERS & INFANTS are **VERY SENSITIVE** to alcohol and can get very sick even if they swallow a mouthful. Supervise children when they use it.

Side Effects of Ingesting:

- ✓ Burning/Stinging
- ✓ Memory impairment
- ✓ Diarrhea
- ✓ Acute alcohol poisoning
- ✓ Vomiting
- ✓ Damage to internal organs

Some of these effects may be permanent.



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Methanol is a Toxic Contaminant

It is **very uncommon** to find methanol in hand sanitizers however, when problems with manufacturing occur, methanol contamination can happen. Consumers who have hand sanitizers **contaminated** with methanol should dispose of the products as **hazardous waste**, following the advice of local waste management officials.

Sanitizers are Flammable

Store and use sanitizers in a safe place and manner, away from all possible sources of ignition, such as fire. Do not leave bottles in direct sunlight, in a hot car or next to the grill or any other ignition source.



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Get Help

If you experience adverse effects from using hand sanitizers or suspect ingestion of hand sanitizer, **call Florida's Poison Control Centers** or your healthcare provider. If your symptoms are life threatening, **call 911** or your local emergency number immediately. **POISON HELP 800-222-1222**