

**Questions & Sample Answers / ECHO-TV Show # &
“Preventing Hot Liquid Burns at Home”**
(Recording Show: Tuesday, October 28, 2008 / 2:30-7:30 pm @ TPT) **Updated 101708**

1. How serious of a problem are hot liquid burns at home?

Sample Answer:

- Several hundred thousand Americans receive treatment for hot liquid burns each year. Most of them are children.
- A hot liquid burn is called a “scald”.
- Our youngest children are most at risk. 60% of all scald injuries are suffered by children younger than five-years-old.
- Hot liquid burns represent 75% of the burn injuries suffered by children.
- Hot liquid burns are the most common burn that leads to hospital admission among children.

2. Why are young children especially at risk for scald injuries?

Sample Answer:

- Young children are curious and learn by imitating adults.
- Young children are curious and often reach for things they can’t see on the stove or in a hot coffee cup.
- A spill of small size may affect a large area of a child’s body. A cup of coffee could burn 25% of a toddler’s body.

3. Where do hot liquid burns most often happen?

Sample Answer:

- In a child’s own home—most often in the kitchen/dining area and the bathroom.
- Many adults don’t realize that hot tap water can injure or kill loved ones.
- Parents need to remember that hot water can burn like fire.
- Hot water heaters in most homes are set to 155 degrees which is hot enough to cause severe burns.
- At 155 degrees, it only takes 1 second to develop a blistering burn to the skin.

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4. How do most hot liquid burns occur?

Sample Answer:

- In the kitchen and dining area, most scald injuries result from spills of hot food, grease or beverages.
- Steam from rice, vegetables and other foods can also cause a scald burn.
- Burns occur when a parent is holding a child while drinking a hot beverage like tea or coffee.
- In the bathing area, most scald burns result from a child left unattended in a bathtub.
- Hot water from the sink or tub.

5. What can parents do to make their kitchens a safer place for children?

Sample Answer:

- Supervise children constantly around hot liquids anywhere in the house.
- Limit child play in the kitchen to an area away from the stove and other cooking equipment.
- Do not use tablecloths.
- Talk to children about the dangers of hot liquids. Make sure other family members, babysitters and relatives know how to keep kids safe.

6. What can parents do to make their bathrooms a safer place for children?

Sample Answer:

- NEVER leave a child in the bath tub alone!
- Set your water heater (or ask your landlord to do so if you rent) thermostat to no more than 120 degrees.
- Check the temperature of a child’s bath water before you put them in it, by first placing your hand in the water.
- Run the cold water first and then add the hot for a bath. Never let a child adjust water flow.
- Install a scald prevention valve in your water line that keeps the temperature at a safe level.

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7. If a hot liquid burn happens what should be done to treat the child?

Sample Answer:

- First, remove any clothing from around the burn site.
- Then, cool the burn with cool water- do not use ice or very cold water as that can do more skin damage.
- Cover the burn area with a loose, clean cloth.
- Don't rely on home remedies such as butter or toothpaste to try to soothe a scald burn.
- Do not open any blisters that may form.

8. When should a parent seek medical attention for a child who has been burned with hot liquids?

Sample Answer:

- Call 9-1-1 (the emergency number) if the burn is to a child's head, neck, or chest.
- If the skin develops a blister, do not open it as this can lead to an infection.
- Watch for pus or new redness around the site of a burn. It can be a sign of an infection. A child should then be seen by a doctor or health care provider.
- If the child develops a fever, they should be seen by a doctor or health care provider.

9. Are there any additional tips families should consider to help prevent hot liquid burns?

Sample Answer:

- Make sure electrical cords are not dangling within a child's reach.
- Use spill-resistant “travel mugs” for hot drinks.
- Never hold a child while cooking, serving hot food, or drinking hot beverages.
- Do not allow children under age 12 to cook or use the microwave by themselves.
- When cooking, keep pot and pan handles pointed away from the edge of the stove or use the back burner to prepare foods out of reach of children.
- Place hot foods and liquids in the center of the table or on the back of the counter.

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10. Is there anything else you'd like to add?

Sample Answer: