

Wild Mushrooms

Do not eat wild mushrooms

People should not pick or eat wild mushrooms in Tasmania. There are many types of poisonous mushrooms that grow in Tasmania and there is no easy way to tell the difference between a poisonous mushroom and an edible one. Cooking, soaking, peeling or drying poisonous mushrooms does **not** make them safe to eat.

You should only eat mushrooms purchased from a supermarket, greengrocer or other reputable source.

Children under 5 years of age have a natural inclination to put things in their mouths. If you have a toddler, you should regularly check your garden for wild mushrooms and remove them to reduce the risk of accidental poisoning. Talk to older children about the dangers of wild mushrooms.

Symptoms

Poisonous wild mushrooms can cause nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhoea and hallucinations. Some mushrooms can cause liver or kidney failure and death. Symptoms of mushroom poisoning generally occur within 30 minutes to 24 hours after eating the mushrooms, depending on the type and amount eaten.

Medical Treatment

If you suspect that you or your child has eaten a poisonous mushroom, do not wait for symptoms to occur. **Urgently contact the Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26** (24 hours a day, seven days a week).

In an emergency, call 000 for an ambulance or seek urgent medical attention at a hospital emergency department. If possible, take a whole mushroom with you for identification.

For further information:

Contact Public Health Services on 1800 671 738.

Food Safety – Public Health Services

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Death Cap Mushroom

The Death Cap mushroom (*Amanita phalloides*) is one type of poisonous mushroom that grows in Tasmania. It is a deadly poisonous fungus – eating just one mushroom can kill an adult. All parts of the mushroom are poisonous.

Death Cap mushrooms often grow near established oak trees and are found where there is warm, wet weather.

Symptoms of death cap mushroom poisoning generally begin 6-24 hours after ingestion. Symptoms may subside for 1-2 days giving a false impression of recovery. However, by this stage the toxin may have already caused serious liver damage. Liver failure and death may occur within 7-10 days.