

IT'S NOT TIDE, IT'S SUICIDE

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Tide Pod Challenge

A new trend has risen in the news and is causing a buzz throughout social media. The Tide Pod challenge consists of biting into a Tide Pod and can lead to very dangerous repercussions such as serious injury or even death. Many memes and light hearted jokes have been made about the topic, but there can be serious repercussions.

Tide Pods were launched in 2012 and were created with the intention of making laundry easier. Rather than having to use detergent, the powerful pack that had detergent, brightener and a stain remover all in one made laundry a little bit quicker. The Tide Pod Challenge gained popularity when kids realized that Tide Pods resembled candy and filmed themselves biting into the pack.

Many people are trying to digest Tide Pods and at least eight deaths have been linked to ingesting them. Tide Pods generally consist of ethanol, hydrogen peroxide, bleach and soap. Eating a tide pod can burn through the lining of the mouth and stomach. Saliva can break down and dissolve the plastic encasing around a Tide Pod within seconds then, it eats away at your esophagus, mouth and stomach causing extreme vomiting. There is a risk of breathing the vomit into your lungs. Some other effects of biting into a laundry pod can be coughing, choking, coma, and possibly death. If the detergent goes into your bloodstream or brain, it can cause seizures, coma, and eventually death. These pods can irritate the mouth, throat, skin and eyes. These side effects have been known to develop in a range from hours to days.

Recently, a student at ThunderRidge High School ate a Tide Pod, causing a panic within the halls. ThunderRidge calls the ambulance and while waiting, the student was given milk to neutralize the poison.

"I don't think kids should be eating Tide," art teacher Zoe Tessier said. "The hype about the Tide Pod challenge is probably because they look like pieces of candy. It's kinda evil, it looks like a gummy pod."

In the event that someone digests a Tide Pod or any poisonous substance, certain things can help to neutralize the poison until an ambulance arrives. It is recommended to drink small amounts of milk and call poison control right away. If someone bites into a tide pod, wash their hands and face and clean/wipe their mouth out. If the liquid inside the pods gets into one's eyes, have a parent, or yourself, gently rinse the affected eye with running water for about 15 minutes.



Tide Pod Container

Tide Pods sit on the shelf at Walmart. Some stores have locked up the laundry packets while others have yet to do so.

Opinions on the Tide Pod Challenge

Amy Hartmann

"I think that they're kind of stupid for doing that because it's really dumb to even do that in the first place. It shouldn't have become as popular as it is," Amy Hartmann '19 said.

Kylee Ingram

"I think they're dumb, I don't think it's useful for their time. I think they do it to be funny and try to get attention from it," Kylie Ingram '20 said, "It's dangerous and kids think they won't get hurt by it but they actually can."

Jordan Genuario

"I think it's kinda stupid but I kinda wanna try it, it seems fascinating because of all the publicity online and for like the 'do it and you're cool,'" Jordan Genario '21 said, "I don't think it should be popular because it's a stupid thing and the fact that it is popular is stupid."

Melinda Schultz

"I can not believe that y'all don't know better than to do that, I'm just in disbelief," security guard Milanda Schultz said, "I think people do it to put their video on the internet and think that they look neat but they don't."



Disecting A Tide Pod

Detergent

Detergent is a water-soluble cleansing agent that combines with impurities and dirt to make them more soluble, the main function of a detergent is to break down the surface tension that exists between grease and water. When ingested detergent can seriously injure or kill a person, detergent can contain strong acids, alkalis, or phosphates.



Brightener

Brightener is typically a fluorescent substance added to detergents in order to produce a whitening effect on laundry. The purpose of brightener is to preserve and brighten the colors of clothes. If brightener is digested, it can cause death or injury and can irritate the skin.

Stain Remover

The function of stain remover is to break apart various stains left in clothing, stain removal is the process of removing a mark or spot left by one substance on a specific surface. When ingested stain remover is very harmful to people and if the stain remover is exposed to eyes, mouth or skin, it can cause irritation.

What to do if a Tide Pod is Ingested

- 1** Remove the Tide Pod from your mouth and rinse your hands, mouth, and anywhere that the Tide Pod may have touched.
- 2** Have a friend or yourself call 911 or poison control as soon as the incident occurs.
- 3** While waiting for an ambulance drink small amounts of milk to neutralize the poison.

**POISON
CONTROL**

**(800)
222
1222**