

Mushroom Toxicity (poisoning)

Mushrooms are to be respected not feared. Here is an interesting little story from Debbie Viess, a biologist, naturalist, writer and artist, obsessed with mushrooms in general and amanitas in particular for close to 20 years. Click [here](#) for the story.

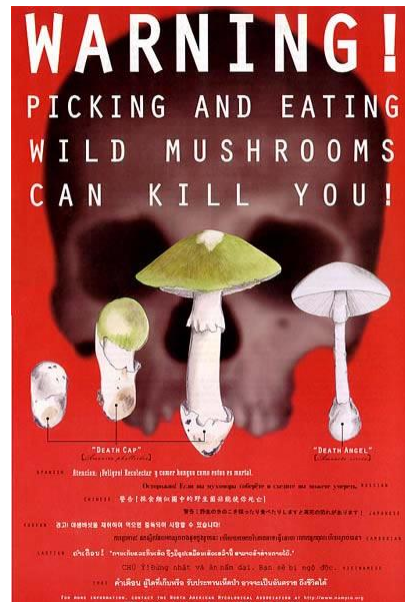
There are many varieties of mushrooms that are edible but many more that carry with them some level of toxicity. Learning to tell the difference between the tasty edible varieties and those that can bring trouble is part of the learning process that every mushroom hunter goes through. If you suspect that you may have eaten some poisonous fungi the first thing you should do is to follow these instructions:

If You Suspect a Poisoning



If you suspect that you have consumed a poisonous mushroom, contact a physician, or your [local poison control center](#). Once help has been secured, it is advisable to try to get the suspect mushrooms identified. NAMA provides a [list of volunteers](#) who are able to assist with identification in poisoning cases. It is best to get help if you are not familiar with mushroom identification.

What You Can Do



If you, someone you know, or even your pet may have been poisoned by mushrooms, try to get a sample of the same mushroom or mushrooms from where they were found. This will help aid in identification.

Place any available material in a paper bag or waxed paper, not plastic and refrigerate until it can be examined. Note where the mushrooms were collected in case the mushrooms may have been contaminated by uptake of pesticides or heavy metals from lawns, roadsides or industrial areas. After the incident, help document mushroom poisonings by [submitting an online report](#) or [mail-in report](#) to the NAMA Poison Case Registry.