

Lye Water

Lye Water (sometimes called “Lime Water”) is used in very small amounts for cooking meat, rice or noodles and vegetables like corn, beans, maize or okra – to soften or add flavour. Lye Water can also be used to make soap.



Two types of Lye water sold in Australia

Salt crystals or powders that do the same job as Lye Water:

- > bicarbonate soda – ‘bicarb’
- > sodium carbonate
- > sodium bicarbonate
- > lye salt
- > uvusaaru
- > combo
- > soda ash
- > magadi soda

What Do I Need To Know About Lye Water?

- > **Lye Water sold in Australia might be stronger than the cooking ingredient used in Africa and other countries.**
- > Children who have accidentally swallowed Lye Water have needed urgent medical attention in hospital.
- > Burns can be so severe that they can cause permanent damage.
- > Lye water bottles have a special lid to make it harder for children to open - it might not stop them but it will slow them down.



*Squeeze or push down to open.
Make sure the lid is always put on tightly!*

Why Might Lye Water Be Dangerous To Health?

- > **Lye Water is OK for cooking but it is a strong (caustic) liquid that can be dangerous if:**
 - accidentally swallowed straight from the bottle, which can burn your mouth, throat and stomach
 - splashed on skin, which can burn your eyes and skin.



Keeping children safe from Lye Water burns:



1. DO NOT: store Lye Water where children can reach the bottle and swallow it.

Lye Water is OK for cooking BUT it can burn the mouth, throat and stomach if swallowed straight from the bottle.

**** If swallowed phone 000 IMMEDIATELY for SA Ambulance Service (or 112 from mobile phones)**



2. DO NOT: forget that children can climb up to reach cupboards or on top of the fridge.

Always keep Lye Water where children can't reach it.



3. DO NOT: measure Lye Water into a cup or spoon, and then leave it on the bench where children could accidentally swallow it.

You should add it to your cooking straight away.



4. DO NOT: pour Lye Water into another bottle.

The special lid on Lye Water bottles make it hard for children to open, so you can take the bottle away before they drink from it.

Make sure you put the lid on tightly.

For more information about Lye Water or other household chemicals contact:

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