

VENICE PLASTIC SURGERY

A.E. HAAS, M.D.

Cosmetic, Reconstructive, Face, Breast, and Hand Surgery

Wounds - Household appliances

I have mentioned previously that the most common injury I see from the kitchen is a leg wound from the dishwasher. I see at least one a week. There are other appliances that seem to be hazardous.

The blender or mixer is a good one. Why do people try to free things up while it is running? The same is true for the sink disposer. And it is not just because people stick their hands into these things. When you put a spoon into the disposer it may get thrown out and hit you in the eye.

Cleaning the toaster or trying to free a bagel can be hazardous. We will use a knife and do so while it is still plugged in. This makes for a shocking experience at times. It could be worse.

An increasingly common injury is from a spray painter. The kitchen walls are dirty and a fresh coat of paint will spruce it up. Now that spray painting machines are affordable everybody buys one. The injury that occurs is called a high pressure injection wound. These may seem innocuous as there may be just a small pin hole wound. The problem is that paint is injected. These must always and quickly be examined by a doctor. That paint must be removed. Severe infections will result. Never put your hand in front of that nozzle for any reason and unplug if for cleaning.

What about those kitchen and household chemicals and cleaners? It is probably a good idea to wear gloves when using these and I always tell people to use disposable ones. When people insist on reusable gloves they get contaminated over time with small splashes of the chemicals. The toxic substances then get onto your hands from the inside of your gloves. Many patients get a rash on there hands that are thought to be from some allergy but are instead a weak chemical burn. Always open windows to get ventilation when working with cleaners and chemicals.

The worst injury of the kitchen is a burn from the stove area. Children touch hot items or spill hot things onto themselves. Adults try to remove burning grease from the stove by moving the pan. This always results in a third degree burn. Leave the burning pan there and use an appropriate fire extinguisher. If you do not have one then go buy one right now. And never allow children in the kitchen area while cooking. Small children should never be left unattended.

Sometimes I think that common sense does not really exist. Maybe we should label this type of thinking as uncommon or rather a form of advanced thinking.

**The above represents the opinion of A. E. Haas, M.D.
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Just call us directly. No referral needed unless required by your insurance company

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