

# Household Pet Dangers



**PRODUCTS:** This list of products contains some of the most common household toxins for cats & dogs. Not only are they dangerous to ingest, but many of them can irritate pet's skin & eyes. If any of the below items are stored in a lower cabinet, please consider using child safety locks to keep curious pets out. Also, avoid keeping medications on nightstands or countertops where pets could get at them.

- |                       |                        |                 |                               |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| • Ibuprofen & aspirin | • Liquid potpourri     | • Cocoa mulch   | • Non-pet safe de-icing salts |
| • Acetaminophen       | • Lime/scale remover   | • Compost       |                               |
| • Cold and flu meds   | • Lead                 | • Lighter fluid |                               |
| • Antidepressants     | • Paint thinners       |                 |                               |
| • Vitamins            | • Flea & tick products |                 |                               |
| • Diet pills          | • Rodent bait          |                 |                               |
| • Anti-cancer drugs   | • Mothballs            |                 |                               |
| • Tobacco products    | • Fly bait             |                 |                               |
| • Detergents          | • Antifreeze/Coolant   |                 |                               |
| • Fabric softener     | • Gasoline             |                 |                               |
| • Drain Cleaners      | • Oil                  |                 |                               |
| • Oven cleaner sprays | • Insecticides         |                 |                               |
| • Disinfectants       | • Pesticides           |                 |                               |
| • Bleach              | • Fertilizer           |                 |                               |

## ALWAYS KEEP HUMAN MEDICATION OUT OF REACH

Over-the-counter and human prescription medications were the top two reasons pet parents called the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (APCC) for help in 2019.

**AREAS:** Watch your pet closely around these areas where escape acts & accidents are common. For instance, pets can get singed while napping near a lit fireplace, tumble out a window with an unsecured screen, or fall from a balcony if they're able to fit through the railing. If pets slip outside of an open door or gate, they can be at risk for all sorts of injuries. They might run into traffic or get into a scrape with another animal. Be sure to check gates for any gaps or loose slats. Keep an eye on your pet when visitors come in & out of your home.

**Doorways      Windows      Balconies      Fireplaces/fire pits      Gates**

**HOLIDAY ITEMS:** Some of the most common pet toxins come up during the holidays. Be mindful as you're enjoying these festive times of the year. Want to include your pet in the celebration? Give them a fun gift, like a new ball to chase around the house or a safe puzzle-toy to chew on. You could even serve them a special dinner with pet-friendly foods like bits of sweet potato, skinless cooked chicken, or pieces of apple.

- |                |                      |                  |                    |                 |
|----------------|----------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| ▪ Balloons     | ▪ Boxes of chocolate | ▪ Candles        | ▪ Holiday tree     | ▪ Tinsel        |
| ▪ Confetti     | ▪ Fake Easter grass  | ▪ Candy          | ▪ Light strands    | ▪ Styrofoam     |
| ▪ Noise makers | ▪ Spring bulbs       | ▪ Turkey bones   | ▪ Tree water       | ▪ Yuletide fire |
| ▪ Flowers      | ▪ Fireworks          | ▪ Hot containers | ▪ Decoration hooks |                 |

## Tips for a Pet Poison Emergency

- ✓ *Stay calm: You'll be better able to help your pet if you keep a cool head. Our pets also have an uncanny ability to know what we're feeling. They might get more scared or anxious if they sense that you're upset.*
- ✓ *Contact your veterinarian or the APCC immediately. You can call the APCC at 888-426-4435 anytime day or night for help with a poison-related emergency.*
- ✓ *Have important information handy. You'll be asked about the size and age of your pet & for any details you have on the toxin they ingested. You can refer to the ingredient list if the substance was in a package.*
- ✓ *Take care handling your pet. Even the sweetest & most docile pet can lash out when they're frightened or in pain. Make sure you're gentle with your pet; ask for help if you need it.*

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**FOOD:** Some human foods, such as carrots, apples, & bananas, have great health benefits for pets, but others are highly toxic. It's important not to get the good foods confused with the harmful ones. Chocolate is one of the top toxins for dogs; it contains caffeine & theobromine, which can cause vomiting, stomach pain, & seizures if your dog eats enough of it. The darker the chocolate, the more dangerous it is for the dog.

- Chocolate
- Avocados
- Tea leaves
- Raw yeast dough
- Grapes
- Onions
- Coffee
- Spoiled foods
- Raisins
- Garlic
- Xylitol
- Fatty foods
- Macadamia nuts
- Salt
- Alcohol

**APPLIANCES:** Appliances & other household necessities can be hazardous even when they're not in use. They may contain product residue that can be harmful to your pet. Always close toilet lids so your pet won't be tempted to drink the water. If you have a pool or hot tub, make sure your pet can't jump in for a swim when nobody is around to supervise them. Lastly, keep your pet away from hot grills to avoid burns.

*Bathtubs                      Sinks                      Washer/dryer  
Pools/hot tubs              Toilets                      Grill*

## READ YOUR PEANUT BUTTER LABEL

*Dogs are pretty nuts about peanut butter, but you should check the ingredients before you offer it. Some brands contain xylitol, which is an artificial sweetener that is dangerous to pooch.*

**OBJECTS:** Pets can get hurt if they choke on or swallow small objects. Sharp objects can also be hazardous. Be sure to check around for these items on the floor, under coffee tables or chairs, & between the couch cushions on a regular basis.

- Coins
- Thread
- Twist ties
- Hair pins
- Razors
- Buttons
- Sewing needles
- Plastic wrap
- Eye glasses
- Electrical cords
- Jewelry
- Batteries
- Silverware
- Dental floss
- Nylons
- Paper clips
- Dishes
- Towels
- Yarn
- Rubber bands
- Cotton swabs
- Rugs

**PLANTS:** Not all leafy greens are good to eat! There's a long list of plants that can be problematic for pets. Plus, the soil of potted plants can contain fertilizers, molds, bacteria, & other substances that could harm your pet. Cats in particular love to nibble on plant leaves & flowers, which can cause upset tummies or worse. Some cats will do anything to get at a bouquet that might have toxic blooms. They can also get hurt if they knock the vase over & cut their paws on the glass.

Autumn Crocus      Eucalyptus      Hyacinth      Pothos      Amaryllis  
 Dracaena      Dieffenbachia      Tulip      Lilies      Spider Plan  
 Daffodil      Lily of the Valley      Iris      Sago Palm      Rhododendron  
 Calla Lily      Philodendron      Ficus      Oleander  
 Hydrangea      Morning Glory      Azalea      Wisteria



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