



Common Household Hazards For Pets

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Everyday items in your home can pose hidden dangers to your pets. Learn about common toxins, choking hazards, and other safety risks to keep your furry companions healthy and protected.

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Common Household Hazards for Pets

Your home may feel safe, but there are many everyday items that can pose a risk to your furry friend.

Understanding these hazards is the first step toward creating a pet-safe environment.

1. Toxic Foods

- **Chocolate:** Contains theobromine, toxic to dogs and cats.
- **Grapes and Raisins:** Can cause kidney failure in dogs.
- **Onions and Garlic:** Damages red blood cells and may lead to anemia.
- **Xylitol:** Found in sugar-free gum and candy; causes insulin release and liver failure.

2. Human Medications

Keep all prescription and over-the-counter medications out of reach. Common painkillers like ibuprofen, acetaminophen, and cold medicines can be fatal for pets.

3. Household Cleaners

- Bleach, ammonia, and disinfectant sprays can cause respiratory issues and chemical burns.
- Even “natural” products can be harmful — always read labels and keep pets away during use.

4. Plants

- **Lilies:** Extremely toxic to cats — even small ingestions can cause kidney failure.

- **Poinsettias, aloe, and philodendrons:** Cause gastrointestinal distress if ingested.

5. Small Objects & Choking Hazards

Items like rubber bands, hair ties, jewelry, coins, and batteries can be tempting to pets and lead to choking or intestinal blockages.

6. Cords, Wires, and Open Flames

- **Candles:** Curious pets can knock over open flames and cause burns or fires.
- **Electrical Cords:** Chewing on cords can lead to electric shock or oral burns.

7. Garage and Yard

- **Antifreeze:** Has a sweet taste but is highly toxic — even small amounts can be deadly.
- **Pesticides and fertilizers:** Can cause neurological symptoms or worse.

When in doubt, keep it out of reach. If your pet may have consumed something dangerous, contact your vet or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center immediately: [\(888\) 426-4435](tel:8884264435).

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