



Poison Proof Your Home



Living Room

- Check out all plants-both inside and outside your home. Lilies (*Lilium and Hemerocallis sp.*) can be especially poisonous to cats, so eliminate them from bouquets.
- Keep home fragrance products out of reach. This includes open dishes of liquid potpourri and simmer pots.
- Don't spray aerosols or any heavily fragranced products around caged birds or other cages or crated pets.
- Keep ashtrays and nicotine replacement products out of reach.
- Marijuana-Be very careful of exposure to legal recreational products like marijuana. Pets may be much more sensitive to these products, so toxicities is common.

Kitchen

- Know what foods are poisonous to pets. Watch out for sugar-free chewing gum with Xylitol, raisins, grapes, macadamia nuts, onions, garlic, tomatoes, unbaked yeast bread dough, fatty foods (especially cheese) and chocolate. Avocados are very toxic to birds.
- Keep garbage cans behind closed doors. Trash and compost bins can contain many pet toxins, such as cigarette butts, coffee grounds, moldy dairy products, and chicken bones.
- Keep alcoholic beverages out of reach.
- Cooking with nonstick Teflon pans: fumes can kill birds and be toxic to other pets.

Bathroom

- Keep medications safely locked up in secure cupboards-don't leave them on countertops or tables or stored in plastic zipper baggies, which are easily chewed through. This includes inhalers, dietary aides and nutraceuticals. Acetaminophen (Tylenol) and Ibuprofen are toxic to pets. Aspirin can cause clotting problems in dogs and have fatal consequences in cats.
- Never medicate your pets with human products without first contacting your veterinarian.
- Always check the container before giving medication to your pet to make sure it's the correct medications, and store your own medications separate from your pets.
- Keep cats away from cleaning products. Shut them out of the room/area while spraying cleansers or other products.
- Close toilet lids to keep pets from drinking the water, especially if you use automatic chemical tank or bowl treatments.

Utility Room

- Keep rodenticides FAR AWAY FROM PETS. Keep in mind that rodents can transfer the toxins to accessible locations. Certain rodenticide products DO NOT have treatment antidotes. Always check warning labels and possible toxicity to pets.
- Never use dog flea and tick products on cats.
- Don't leave batteries lying around. Dogs enjoy chewing them, and they can cause serious harm if ingested.
- Keep glues out of reach-they can be tasty but some may cause serious harm. In fact, some glues expand greatly in the stomach leading to bowel obstructions.

Garage

- Ethylene glycol (antifreeze) products are extremely toxic to pets. Choose propylene glycol products as a safer alternative or keep pets FAR AWAY. Gasoline and motor oil are toxic as well.
- Keep all automotive products-like windshield cleaner fluid-away from pets and clean any spills immediately.

Outside

- Dogs like certain fertilizers such as bone meal or blood meal. Keep bags tightly sealed.
- Slug or snail killers-especially those that include met aldehyde-can be harmful to pets.
- Yard insecticides that contain organophosphates or carbonates can be very dangerous.
- Keep pets off lawns until commercially sprayed herbicides are dry.
- Ant bait/rat bait can be quickly fatal.
- Wild mushrooms that grow in our yards can be toxic.



What To Do If Your Pet Gets Poisoned



Your pet has ingested something toxic. *What do you do?* First, take a deep breath. The calmer, cool, and collected you are, the sooner you can seek the correct medical attention. Then get a handle on the situation by taking the following steps:

1. Remove your pet from the area. Make sure no other pets or children are exposed to the area, and safely remove any poisonous material.
2. Check to make sure your pet is breathing normally and acting fine otherwise.
3. Collect a sample of the material, along with the packaging, vial, or container. You'll need that information to help your veterinarian or a pet poison expert assess situation.
4. Don't give your dog any milk, food, salt, oil, or any other home remedies. Doing so will likely complicate the poisoning.
5. Never induce vomiting without talking to your veterinarian or a pet poison expert-doing so may be detrimental or contraindicated.
6. Get Help. Program your veterinarian's phone number into your phone, as well as the emergency veterinarian's number and a pet poison helpline number.

Remember that a pet's prognosis is always better when a toxicity is reported immediately, so don't wait to see if your pet becomes symptomatic before calling for help. Calling right away is safer for your pet and could help you save on treatment costs in the long run. Remember that there's a narrow window of time to decontaminate in cases of poisoning.

Important to numbers to have:

Summit Veterinary Referral Center (Emergency) (253)983-1114 (Open 24 hours a day)

Blue Pearl Tacoma (253)474-0791 (Open 24 hours a day)

[ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center](#) (888)426-4435 (Available)24/7, \$85 per call)

Free if your pets' microchip is registered with Home Again (homeagain.com)