



# Kitten Proofing Your Home

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Kittens are naturally inquisitive, which can sometimes lead to injury. Since we can't always watch our pets, here are some tips on how you can make your house a bit safer:

## **That's Shocking!**

Young animals love to chew when they're teething. Keep electric wires out of reach, or use a pet-repellant spray to make the cords less attractive.

## **They'd Die for Some Chocolate**

Chocolate can be dangerous. It contains theobromine, a powerful stimulant that is toxic to pets. Sweets, cakes, and cookies can also upset a young animal's GI tract and lead to diarrhea and vomiting, which can be serious.

## **Treats Can Be Threats**

Never give turkey, chicken, or rib bones as a treat. They can splinter and cause serious injury.

## **Common Household Killers**

Cleaning agents, bleach, ammonia, disinfectants, drain cleaner, oven cleaner, paint, gasoline, and rat poison are just a few of the deadly chemicals found in many homes. Be sure to keep them out of your pet's reach.

## **Check the Antifreeze**

Pets are attracted to the odor and sweet taste of antifreeze, but it can be deadly when ingested. Look for pet-safe antifreeze products when making your purchase. Store antifreeze in a tightly sealed container out of your pet's reach. Also be sure to rinse any spills on the garage floor. Window-washing solution sometimes contain antifreeze as well, so be sure to read labels. And remember, engine warmth promotes cat naps, so honk your horn to wake pets who might be under your hood.

## **Killer House Plants**

Poisonous plants include lilies, philodendron, dieffenbachia, elephant ear, eucalyptus, spider plants, azalea, ivy, amaryllis, pyranantha, oleander, boxwood, Jerusalem Cherry, and plant bulbs.

## **Keep Off the Grass**

If you treat your lawn with chemicals, keep your pets away! Carefully read and follow label directions.

## **It Fit Yesterday**

Kittens grow rapidly. Collars and harnesses can be rapidly outgrown, leading to serious wounds. Please check collars and harnesses for proper fit on a weekly basis until your cat stops growing.

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## **Strengthening the Bond Between Pets and People**

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**Take Care of Personal Items and Medications**

Cosmetics, shampoos, skin creams, hair solutions (perm or color), depilatories, suntan lotion, sleeping pills, antihistamines, aspirin, and acetaminophen can all be lethal to pets.

**It's Not a Toy**

Don't leave plastic bags out. Inquisitive young animals, especially kittens, can suffocate.

**The Heat Is On**

Watch out for hot irons, coffee pots, stoves, fireplaces, and space heaters. As they grow, kittens can jump to new heights every day.

**A Dip Tip**

Keep covers on hot tubs and swimming pools. Kittens can fall in and not be able to get out. For the same reasons, it's a good idea to keep your toilet lid down.

**'Tis the Season**

Keep holly, mistletoe, and tree tinsel out of reach. Ribbon can also be an appealing but dangerous snack.

**Cozy Up**

Always use a fireplace screen to keep curious paws away from flames.

**Don't Be Mouthy**

Rule of thumb: If any or all of something will fit in a mouth, it can pose a danger to your pet. A few of the things you should look out for include: cigarettes and butts, rubber bands, balloons, sewing needles, thread, string, ribbon, and pantyhose. What goes in must come out...sometimes via surgery.

*Source: The Independent Cat Society*