



Cat Safety 101

Please keep your kitten/cat safe by being aware of the potential health hazards below:

FOOD HAZARDS:

- ❖ Chocolate (one of the worst offenders) of any kind
- ❖ Alcoholic beverages, coffee/tea. Caffeine.
- ❖ Garlic, onion, chives and salt
- ❖ Grapes, raisins, avocado
- ❖ Products containing Xylitol (sweetener used in gum, candy and toothpaste)
- ❖ Cooked bones, which can splinter easily, can cause internal damage (especially chicken)
- ❖ Meat with string attached
- ❖ Macadamia nuts, yeast dough and milk

HOUSEHOLD PLANT HAZARDS:

- ❖ Lilies are especially toxic to cats, even the smallest amounts have caused death due to kidney failure
- ❖ Azalea / Rhododendron
- ❖ Sago Palm
- ❖ Kalanchoe
- ❖ English Ivy
- ❖ Chrysanthemum
- ❖ Schefflera

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDS:

- ❖ Electrical cords - chewing on the cord can expose the wiring. Tape electrical cords to the baseboards in your home or hide them in PVC piping to prevent your pet from being tempted
- ❖ Mini blinds and curtain cords (cats, especially kittens, have died due to strangulation)
- ❖ Very tall cat trees (attach firmly to wall or ceiling and use padding and/or carpet underneath)
- ❖ Railings and balconies (cats and kittens may jump off and cause injury)
- ❖ Unsupervised burning candles (a cat can knock them over and cause a fire, or burn themselves by getting too close)
- ❖ Loose screens and open doors. Remind children and guests to make sure they close doors securely to prevent your pet from escaping (remember to look before you close doors - curious kittens have been injured from having a door shut on them)

CHEWING / CHOKING HAZARDS:

- ❖ Sewing needles and pins, buttons, thread, yarn/string, dental floss (if ingested, do not pull out. Consult your vet)
- ❖ Styrofoam /packing peanuts
- ❖ Staples, paper clips, thumb tacks
- ❖ Rubber bands and elastic ponytail holders (cats love chewing on these and if swallowed can cause intestinal blockage)
- ❖ Pencils with erasers and toothpicks (if cats chew on them, they can splinter which can be fatal if swallowed)
- ❖ Children's small toys (Legos, Lite-Brite pegs, etc...)
- ❖ Bread wire twists ties / plastic bread bag fasteners
- ❖ Milk jug rings and bottle caps (choking hazard)
- ❖ plastic or cellophane bags (suffocation hazard), any bag with a handle (can get wrapped around neck and then cat panics)

MEDICATION HAZARDS: Pets will snatch pills from counters / nightstands or if accidentally dropped on the floor

- ❖ Pain killers (Advil/Tylenol)
- ❖ Cold medicines
- ❖ Antidepressants
- ❖ Vitamins
- ❖ Diet Pills

KITCHEN and BATHROOM HAZARDS:

- ❖ Cupboards (many products stored there can be poisonous to cats)
- ❖ Hot stove burners / Easy to turn oven knobs (cats can turn these on inadvertently)
- ❖ Refrigerators / freezers and dishwashers and ovens - keep doors closed (kittens will climb in and onto shelves)
- ❖ Saran wrap, aluminum foil and cling film (choking hazard)
- ❖ Garbage cans (keep covered and out of reach) cats will knock over or climb in and pull out bones, food and wrappers
- ❖ Toilets with lid left up / bathtub full of water (young kittens can climb into toilets and if the lid closes it has led to drowning) Treated toilet water is also toxic (from automatic cleanser)

LAUNDRY ROOM HAZARDS: LOOK BEFORE YOU LAUNDRY!

- ❖ Washer and dryer - both have been responsible for fatalities in cats/kittens so check before each use and keep doors closed always (empty or full, many cats find dryers an enticing spot to curl up for a nap)
- ❖ Dirty clothes baskets - some cats are notorious for seeking out smells from unwashed clothes (dirty socks are especially dangerous and can cause an obstruction in the digestive system that requires emergency surgery)

TOXIC CHEMICAL HAZARDS: (remember cats can inadvertently ingest if they clean a toxic substance from their fur)

- ❖ Cleaning products and room fresheners (keep locked up or use child and pet safe products)
- ❖ Antifreeze (contains ethylene glycol which has a sweet taste to cats but is deadly if consumed)
- ❖ Liquid potpourri / scented oil and burners - sweet smelling oils can tempt some cats
- ❖ Rat and mouse poisons - keep out of your cats reach (pets who eat a poisoned pest can also succumb to the poison)
- ❖ Ant killers (many ant killers contain boric acid and have a sweet smell and taste to attract ants and can be equally appealing to cats, so always put ant killer in places your cat can't get to)
- ❖ Bleaches, detergents, disinfectants, paint thinners and drain cleaner
- ❖ Caulking products which also can contain antifreeze
- ❖ Some cats are attracted to the ammonia in floor cleaners or bleach, and may lick a recently cleaned floor. Cats who lick their paws after walking on a floor treated with cleansers are vulnerable to poisoning.

HOLIDAY HAZARDS:

- ❖ Balloons, ribbons, tinsel (can cause intestinal blockage. If ingested, do not pull out. Consult your vet)
- ❖ Christmas tree water (may contain fertilizers and bacteria, which, if ingested, can upset the stomach)
- ❖ Holiday lights are also fun to play with and are a shock and choking risk

MISC HAZARDS:

- ❖ Paper shredder - the machine can often be warm, making it an inviting spot for your cat to lie on (cats have had paws, tails and fur caught, so it's a good habit to keep the shredder turned OFF when not in use)
- ❖ Cover holes in your walls or baseboards to ensure that your cat won't climb through them
- ❖ Reclining chairs - cats and kittens love to run under, hide and nap in reclining chairs (when someone sits or starts to rock in the chair, pets can become caught or even fatally injured)
- ❖ Small children - teach young children how to properly pick up your cat (ensure the cat has a place to escape for time out should it need & be sure your child knows this spot is out of bounds)
- ❖ Unsafe cat toys - stuffed toys with filling ripped out or toys with small or removable parts (bells, plastic / beads for eyes, string or yarn can be broken off and swallowed, leading to a blockage in your pet's intestines) **As a rule, always use toys no smaller than a Ping-Pong ball as a cat toy to avoid choking**
- ❖ Any space in which your cat can become trapped, especially if the air supply can be cut off (Litter pails with attached lids, etc)

THIS IS ONLY SOME OF THE MORE COMMON HAZARDS
THAT CATS CAN FACE IN THE HOME.

For more complete information, go to www.SavedByAWhisker.petfinder.com
and choose *Resources* link