

Hidden dangers in plain sight

Any of the following can be attractive to a dog, whether young or old. Use this checklist to dog proof your home and yard to protect your curious canine. This list doesn't include every danger to your dog, so use your judgment. If you think something looks dangerous, it probably is.



Put away precious breakables! Your new dog might bump into or knock over tables, shelves, dressers, or cabinets and accidentally break fragile items, which could hurt her.

Unplug dangling electrical and phone cords or secure them to baseboards. Chewing cords can cause severe burns or death and expensive household damage.

Wind up dangling drapery cords. Pets (especially puppies) can strangle themselves by catching their necks in the loops.

Remove cigarette butts from ashtrays. They're poisonous!

Move poisonous plants, foods, and house and garden products out of your dog's reach. Poisonous plants include daffodils and tulips, lilies, English ivy, hydrangea, iris, mistletoe, and philodendron. Foods include chocolate, onions, grapes and raisins, and macadamia nuts. Household products include rodent bait/poison, antifreeze, products such as toothpaste and gum that contain xylitol, and household cleaners. If your dog ingests a toxic substance, call your vet and your local animal poison control center. The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center is **1-888-426-4435**; their website is <http://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/poison-control/>. Ask your veterinarian for more complete lists of common poisons.

Keep the lid down on the toilet bowl and flush after using cleaners.

Use pesticides with extreme caution. They are deadly, they last a long time, and you might forget where they were administered.

Secure garbage cans in a cabinet or closet. Cellophane, plastic wrap, sharp objects, bones, rich or fatty food, and rotten food can all cause health emergencies for you and your pet.

Watch what your dog is chewing on. Broken-off pieces of chew toys or small balls/toys can get lodged in your dog's throat and choke her. This includes golf balls, racquet balls, kid's toys, and other household items.

Don't forget the yard. Fence in any swimming area and pick up all garden tools and chemicals. Some dogs even swallow small rocks.



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