

## *Sun O'er Sea's List of Top Household Hazards for Cats*

Cats and kittens are curious, sticking their noses into random spaces and places. Exploring may expose your kitty to some not so obvious dangers in your home. It just takes a bit of time and know-how to "cat-proof" your house so your little one stays healthy and safe.

### **Human Medicines**

Some human over-the-counter and prescription medicines pose a serious threat to your cat, so keep them in a place that he or she can't get into.

- Antidepressants
- Cancer medicines
- Cold medicines
- Diet pills
- Pain relievers (acetaminophen, aspirin, ibuprofen)
- Vitamins and other supplements
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You may have heard that some common medicines work for people and cats.

**Never medicate your cat without first talking to your vet -- it's easy to give your cat a fatal overdose.**

### **Human Foods**

Many cats crave people food, but these popular human fares can be poisonous to your feline:

- Alcohol
- Caffeine (coffee, soda, tea)
- Chives
- Chocolate
- Garlic
- Grapes
- Onions
- Raisins
- Xylitol (found in sugarless gums, candies, toothpastes)
- Yeast dough

### **Indoor and Outdoor Plants**

Common houseplants -- as well as ones that you may bring into your home --

can be hazardous to your cat's health:

- Aloe
- Azaleas
- Chrysanthemums
- Lilies
- Marijuana
- Mistletoe
- Poinsettia
- Rhododendron
- Tulips

### **Insecticides and Other Chemicals**

Some chemicals taste especially good to cats. To prevent accidental pet poisoning, keep these and all chemicals locked away:

- Antifreeze
- Bleach
- Detergents
- De-icing salts (which pets may walk through, then lick from their pads)
- Dog flea and tick medication (pills, collars, sprays, shampoos)
- Fertilizers
- Herbicides
- Insect and rodent bait

### **More Household Hazards**

These common household items can choke or strangle your cat. Some may even lead to intestinal blockages.

- Chicken bones
- Dental floss, yarn, string
- Holiday decorations, including lights and tinsel
- Toys with small or movable parts (never let feathers go unsupervised!)

### **If Your Cat's Been Poisoned**

Every moment matters if you think your cat has been exposed to something toxic.

**Call your vet.** Post your veterinarian's phone number in an obvious place, along

with the number for the Animal Poison Control Center: (888) 426-4435. They can help you know what to do next. Know the location of your local ER vet in case of an after-hours emergency.

**Collect samples.** Take samples of vomit, stool, and the poison your cat consumed to the vet with your cat.

**Watch for symptoms.** Symptoms of poisoning in cats include:

- Breathing problems
- Confusion
- Coughing
- Depression
- Diarrhea
- Dilated pupils
- Gastrointestinal irritation
- Salivation
- Seizures
- Shivering
- Skin irritation
- Tremors
- Vomiting
- Weakness

**Educate.** After your cat recovers, call your poison control center or humane society to let them know what happened to your pet, so they can track problem poisons and help prevent other pet poisonings.