

Pet-Proofing Your Home

Dogs can be very curious. Here's how to keep your companion animal safe in your home.

Kitchens/bathrooms

- Use childproof latches to keep little paws from prying open cabinets
- Place medications, cleaners, chemicals, and laundry supplies on high shelves
- Keep trash cans covered or inside a latched cabinet
- Check for and block any small spaces, nooks, or holes inside cabinets or behind washer/dryer units
- Keep foods out of reach (even if the food isn't harmful, the wrapper could be)
- Keep the toilet lid closed to prevent drowning or drinking of harmful cleaning chemicals

Living/family room

- Place dangling wires from lamps, VCRs, televisions, stereos, and telephones out of reach
- Put away children's toys and games
- Put away knick-knacks until your puppy has the coordination not to knock them over
- Check all those places where your vacuum cleaner doesn't fit, but your puppy does, for dangerous items, like string
- Move common house plants that may be poisonous out of reach.
- Make sure all heating/air vents have covers
- Put away all sewing and craft notions, especially thread

Garage

- Move all chemicals to high shelves or behind secure doors
- Clean all antifreeze from the floor and driveway, as one taste can be lethal to animals
- Keep all sharp objects and tools out of reach

Bedrooms

- Keep laundry and shoes behind closed doors (drawstrings and buttons can cause major problems if swallowed)
- Keep any medications, lotions, or cosmetics off accessible surfaces (like the bedside table)
- Move electrical and phone wires out of reach of chewing
- Be careful that you don't close your puppy in closets or dresser drawers

And look out for paws, noses, and tails when you shut doors behind you or scoot chairs.

