



## **Puppy and Kitten proofing your house**

One of the most important things you can do for your puppy or kitten is to give him a safe environment to live, play and explore. Young puppies and kittens are not entirely stable on their feet, they will put anything in their mouths, and they are curious enough to get into everything. These are some precautions you can take to keep your new little one safe.

Keep toxic or hazardous materials, like cleaning solutions, antifreeze and medications, in a locked cabinet or separate room that your pet can't get into. Don't trust a cabinet close to the ground. Puppies and kittens have been known to paw cabinet doors open.

Check your house for small holes or gaps in the floorboard, walls, baseboards and heating vents, or any space small animals can crawl into and possibly get stuck. Look over your furniture for any sharp staples or nails, especially under couches or chairs. Check for any holes under upholstered furniture and box springs. Kittens especially like to crawl under and into these things and can get stuck. Be careful of reclining chairs also.

Remove everything that is small enough to be chewed or swallowed. Make sure children pick up their toys, especially small toys or stuffed animals. Larger breed puppies can even swallow things as big as pens, rocks and small balls. Objects like these can cause choking or intestinal damage and blockage.

Puppies and kittens like to chew, so keep electric cords out of their reach. You can cover them with rugs or plastic cord guards. Keep safety covers in unused electrical outlets if they can be reached by puppies or kittens.

Check to make sure that the plants you have in the house are not toxic. Many common household plants are poisonous and can be harmful or even fatal if swallowed. Go to our [Links page](#) to find Animal Poison Control's website listing of common poisonous plants.