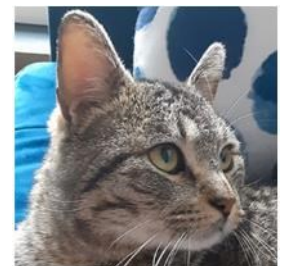




Cat Safety Essentials

page 1

- **Windows** – A cat intent on catching a passing bug or bird can break through a screen that does not have very sturdy mesh and/or is not very securely attached. It is safest not to open windows more than about two inches – the cat must not be able to get her head through the opening.
- **Balconies** – Cats should *never* be on a balcony that is not completely enclosed. Cats like to walk on railings, and they like to go after bugs and birds. They can easily go over the railing.
- **Bags** - Put away bags with handles. The cat can become caught in the handle and might suffocate if the handle is around her neck. Cats love paper bags, so remove the handles before you let your cat play in one. Do not let your cat play in plastic bags.
- **Rubber bands, strings, needles, tinsel, dental floss** – These and other small objects that the cat might swallow could be fatal, so put them away.
- **Plants** – Some common plants are poisonous to cats. Visit the [ASPCA's Toxic Plant page](#) for a list of toxic and non-toxic plants.
- **People Foods** – Some foods that are fine for us can make your cat sick or cause death. Visit the [ASPCA's People Foods to Avoid page](#) for a list.
- **Human Medications** – Do not leave medications where your cat can get them. Do not give your cat any human medication unless instructed by your veterinarian.
- **Dog Flea Medications** – The wrong insecticide can be lethal for a cat. Flea and tick insecticides used in preventatives for dogs are so potent, that your dog and cat should be kept separated after correct application. Cats should *never, ever* come in contact with dogs' flea medications. Topical insecticides are one of the top feline toxins reported to the [Pet Poison Helpline](#). But if it has been accidentally applied, *immediately* bathe your cat with the proper feline bathing product and take your cat to the vet a.s.a.p. If your cat has already ingested it & is foaming in the mouth – forgo the bath & immediately rush to the vet.
- **Insecticides and Rodenticides** – Do not leave these items where your cat might ingest them. Remember that cats lick their fur, so your cat could ingest them if they get on her fur.
- **Household cleaners, treated toilet water and other hazardous chemicals** – Cleaning products, anti-freeze, disinfectants, etc. can be fatal if ingested. (*cont'd*)





Cat Safety Essentials

page 2

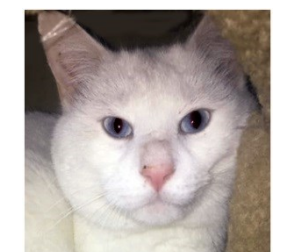
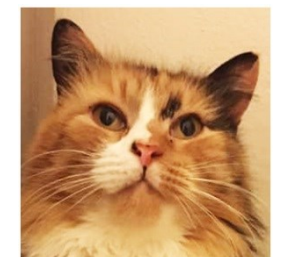
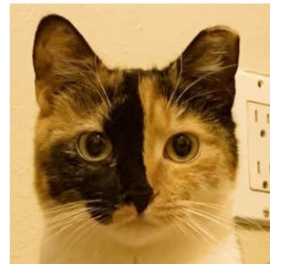
(cont'd) Keep these items stored safely where your cat cannot get them. Please always read the instructions written on the product before use. If certain cleaners need to sit for a bit to be effective, surfaces can be rinsed afterwards to avoid burning tender paws.

Avoid using an automatic toilet cleaner system, and keep the lid down.

Please do not disinfect cat toys or chews with Lysol, which is toxic to companion animals. Instead wash such items with gentle washing detergent or diluted Dove dish detergent and water.

Under no circumstances should you use bleach or bleach-containing cleaning products on your cats or on objects they play with, use or chew.

- **Baths** – Cats don't require baths, but if bathing becomes a necessity, *only* use products intended for bathing companion animals like cats & dogs. Other cleaners can hurt them or cause eye damage.
- **Litter** – For kittens under 4-5 months old, NO clumping litter should be used. Use pine (preferable) or unscented clay litter. Clumping litter can cause blockage in the intestines for young cats and for young kittens clumping litter can be deadly.
- **Collars** – A collar can be quite harmful if a limb gets stuck in it or if it gets caught on furniture. Indoor cats do not need collars and should not wear them when unattended.
- **Venetian Blinds** – Cats can become tangled in the cords.
- **Essential Oils** - Essential oils can pose a toxic risk to household pets, especially to cats. For a more detailed explanation, see the [Essential Oils and Cats Handout](#).
- **Candles** – Cats can knock over a lit candle, starting a fire.
- **Stove knobs** – Use baby guards if your stove knobs are easy to turn. A cat jumping onto the stove can accidentally turn on the heat/flame if the knobs turn easily.
- **Storing items away from cats** – Cats climb and jump. Don't assume that because something is up high that your cat can't get it.



Images: Just a few among the many. many cats For Animals has successfully rescued and rehabilitated