



# Cat Safety Essentials

## 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.

## 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.

## Toilets

Keep the lid closed and avoid using an automatic toilet cleaner system.

## Mothballs

Mothballs are toxic to cats.



## Fireplaces

Fireplaces should have a secure screen.

## Trash bins

Trash bins should have secure covers or be stored in cabinets.

## Electrical cords

Electrical cords should be safe and secure, and not dangling.

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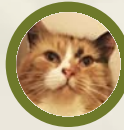


## Household cleaners and other hazardous chemicals

Household cleaners and other hazardous chemicals – Cleaning products, anti-freeze, disinfectants, etc. can be fatal if ingested. 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. 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 Dawn 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.

## Bathing

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 or unscented, non-clumping clay litter. Clumping litter can cause blockage in the intestines for young cats and for young kittens clumping litter can be deadly.

## Venetian blinds

Cats can become tangled in the cords.



## 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.



## 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.

## Closets, drawers, cabinets, washer, dryer, and dishwasher

Closets, drawers, cabinets, washer, dryer, and dishwasher should always be checked before closing. Cats love to use those places as their hiding spots. When loading laundry, pick up each piece separately, as cats often sleep in the pile of dirty clothes.