

Pet Safety Checklist For Cats & Dogs



- _____ Take “a pet’s eye-view” of things. Get down to the pet’s eye level and take a look around. Check areas that a pet can access by way of climbing or jumping.
- _____ Look for choking, strangulation and suffocation hazards. Window treatment cords should be cut so that there are no loops.
- _____ Look for wires and electrical cords that should be covered or unplugged to prevent pets from chewing them and possibly being electrocuted.
- _____ Look for human foods and medications that should not be left where pets can access them. Medications, cleaners, household chemicals, and laundry supplies should be kept on high shelves or in cupboards.
- _____ Check that any plants, indoor and outdoor, are of varieties that are pet-safe. Lilies can cause kidney failure in cats. Other common plants that are toxic to pets include amaryllis, poinsettia, mums, and aloe vera, azaleas, and ferns.
- _____ Check the latches on cupboards to make sure the doors are kept shut. The smell and taste of some chemicals, such as anti-freeze, are especially appealing to both cats and dogs. Childproof latches work well to keep pets from prying open cabinets.
- _____ Check that the toilet lids are down. Especially if using automatic bowl cleaners, an inaccessible toilet bowl will help eliminate the risk of poisoning. And it also prevents a drowning hazard.
- _____ Check the trash can. It should be covered or located inside a latched cabinet.
- _____ Look at the windows. Cats are known to fall out of them. For windows that open, their screens should be made of sturdy wire mesh that’s properly installed.
- _____ Check that the heating and cooling vent registers have louvered covers installed over them.
- _____ Look behind the clothes washer and dryer. Openings in the wall or nearby cabinet should be patched.
- _____ Look over the fencing and check for openings or holes under the fence.
- _____ Check for rescue alert stickers on windows and doors to let emergency responders know that pets are inside the home.

