

CAT-PROOF YOUR HOME WITH 8 EASY TIPS

Make it safe for your cat to be curious and playful.

1. Avoid poisonous plants

Cats like to chew on grass and plants, but some of them are irritating, dangerous, and even deadly to cats. Even non-poisonous plants can cause vomiting and diarrhea. Keep dangerous plants out of reach or, better yet, don't have them in your house. If your cat likes green stuff, purchase or grow your own cat grass.



2. Lock up cleaning supplies

Put child-proof latches on your cabinets to keep your cat from licking, chewing, or eating cleaning products. They contain dangerous chemicals. And, if you'd rather not have your cat investigate your pots and pans, you may want to put latches on other cabinets, too.

3. Be mindful of medicines

Keep all medications, both over-the-counter and prescription, in a secure cabinet. Child-proof containers aren't necessarily chew-proof. Be sure to pick up any dropped pills.

4. Unplug your home

Unplug electrical cords when they aren't in use. If your cat's a chewer, they could be in for a nasty shock. You can also put cords in a cord protector.



5. Tie a knot in cords

Keep drapery and blind cords coiled out of reach. Your cat could get strangled by getting the cord wound around their neck or choke on a plastic pull cord knob that they've chewed into pieces.

6. Check the dryer (and other places)

Look inside the dryer before closing the door, and keep it closed when not in use. Cats love to hide in dark, quiet places, which can be a recipe for a tragedy. Kittens often climb into refrigerators, freezers, and dresser drawers, so check these, too, before closing them.



7. Secure your screens

Make sure your screen door and window screens have secure, sturdy latches. Don't run the risk that your cat could slip out unnoticed.

8. Clip those claws

Indoor cats don't wear down their claws as quickly as outdoor cats do, so they can overgrow. Untrimmed claws can grow into a cat's paw pads, leading to infection, pain, and difficulty walking and using the litter box. Declawing is not a good option. Check your cat's claws every couple of weeks to see if they need to be clipped.



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