



10 SIMPLE TIPS FOR PET PROOFING YOUR HOME

Brought to you by the New BISSELL® SpotBot® Pet

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Pets are like children—they're curious about everything! And just as a new parent would child-proof their home for a toddler's safety, pet parents should be concerned with the safety of their four-footed children.

Here are 10 simple pet proofing tips to get you started:

1. Plants and pets don't mix. Many common house plants are poisonous to pets when chewed or ingested, and almost all lilies are toxic for cats. Eliminate toxic house and garden plants or move them to a safe area. Because they're usually very easy to knock over, place house plants up high to keep them from falling on your pet (and creating a big mess!).
2. Secure your toiletries. Keep medications, lotions and cosmetics off of accessible surfaces and well out of your pet's reach. These items may contain ingredients, dyes or chemicals potentially harmful to pets if swallowed.
3. Check your cabinets. Use cabinet locking devices, like those used to keep young children from opening doors, to keep your pets from getting into food or household and lawn chemicals. Evaluate all lower shelves to make sure there are no unsafe items within easy reach.
4. Set boundaries. Keep doors closed or install toddler safety gates to keep animals out of rooms you don't want them to sniff around in. But be sure to consider the type of gate you are installing with respect to its intended location. For example, you wouldn't want to install a pressure mounted gate at the top of the stairs where a pet might lean on it and topple down the stairs.
5. Hide trashcans. Unless you want garbage scattered all over your home, it's a good idea to hide your trash receptacle in a cabinet or large drawer, or at least keep it tightly lidded. While most food is not hazardous, wrappers can be. Most pet owners know that chocolate and anti-freeze are harmful to pets, but many probably don't know that grapes and raisins also can be deadly for dogs.
6. Check your curtains. To avoid the risk of strangulation, make sure cords from blinds and curtains are well out of your pet's reach.
7. Beware of wires. Tuck away electrical wires and cords from lamps, DVD players, televisions, stereos and telephones so they're out of the reach of chewers. Consider installing electric cord shorteners, outlet covers and window cord safety locks.
8. Protect your knick-knacks. Remove any precious or valuable items from tail wagging level to prevent them from being accidentally toppled by an enthusiastic wagger.
9. Clear the floor. Keep children's toys and games and everyone's shoes and clothing off the floor unless you want Fido to have a field day with them.
10. Eliminate temptation. If you want to be extra-cautious, consider keeping your pets in a crate when you have to leave the house.

These great tips were brought to you by the new BISSELL® SpotBot® Pet! Be prepared for unexpected messes and protect your home with the BISSELL® SpotBot® Pet. This handsfree spot & stain cleaner removes pet stains and odors with the touch of a button. Its Deep Reach™ Technology delivers cleaning solution further into the carpet where the deepest part of the stain resides. Then its strong and powerful suction cleans from the bottom up, removing bacteria* and odors from your carpet and rugs.

Check out more on the BISSELL® SpotBot® Pet at www.bissell.com or your nearest retailer!

For more tips on safeguarding your pet at home, contact your veterinarian or visit www.aspc.org.

