



# Pet Safety for Homeowners

A practical home safety checklist for cats and dogs



## 1. INSIDE THE HOME

- Take a pet's-eye view and check areas a pet can reach by climbing or jumping.
- Remove choking, strangulation, and suffocation hazards. Cut window-treatment cords so there are no loops.
- Cover or unplug exposed wires and electrical cords to prevent chewing and possible electrocution.
- Store human foods, medications, cleaners, and laundry supplies out of reach or in secured cabinets.
- Remove "ladders" that let pets climb onto counters or tabletops.
- Confirm indoor plants are pet-safe. Avoid toxic plants such as lilies, amaryllis, poinsettia, mums, and aloe vera.
- Use secure latches on cupboards that contain chemicals or other unsafe items.
- Keep toilet lids down, especially if automatic bowl cleaners are used.
- Use a covered trash can or keep trash inside a latched cabinet.



## 2. WINDOWS, FLOORS & VENTS

- Make sure windows have secure, sturdy screens to help protect pets from falls.
- Choose durable, easy-clean flooring when possible. Non-porous surfaces are typically easiest to maintain.
- Install louvered covers over heating and cooling vent registers.
- Check behind the washer and dryer and patch openings in nearby walls or cabinets.



## 3. YARD & OUTDOOR SAFETY

- Check outdoor plants for pet toxicity. Hazardous plants can include azaleas, some ferns and ivies, daffodils, and daylilies.
- Verify local regulations related to dog fencing or outdoor enclosures.
- Inspect fencing for gaps, loose areas, or holes underneath where pets could escape.



## 4. EMERGENCY READINESS

- Place rescue alert stickers on windows and doors so responders know pets are inside.



**HELPFUL TIP:**  
A safe home for pets is also a safer home for your family.