

## Kitten Proofing Your Home

Kittens are cute, energetic, and full of mischief. They also get into everything and don't understand the word 'no'. Before you bring your new furry friend home, you can follow these simple steps to keep your kitten safe and yourself sane.

While they are not seriously dedicated chewers like puppies, kittens will sometimes gnaw on electrical cords. Keep cords tucked away where sharp teeth cannot reach them. If the cords cannot be hidden, you can purchase cord protectors or harmless, bitter tasting spray at most pet stores. One taste of the spray is enough to put most kittens off chewing for good.

Make sure heavy and breakable items are secure and out of reach. Cats are phenomenal jumpers, able to leap five times their own height. Many people underestimate the height a kitten can jump. Glass items can shatter into sharp pieces, or a kitten might pull a heavy item down on itself.

If you have blinds on your windows, check to make sure that the drawstrings are not tied or looped at the bottom. A kitten can get wrapped up in them and literally hang itself. You can prevent this by cutting and tying off the ends, or purchase blinds with separate drawstrings.

Check to make sure you do not have any poisonous houseplants within the kitten's reach. Common houseplants that are poisonous to cats include poinsettias, aloe, amaryllis, Easter lily, and philodendron. There are many others, so check with your veterinarian or look for lists online.

Many household chemicals are poisonous to cats. Keep hazardous items in secure cabinets with the doors kept closed at all times. Antifreeze is especially dangerous because it has a sweet taste that animals find appealing.

While the classic image is a kitten with a ball of yarn, any play with toys that have string should be supervised. After play time is over, the string should be put away. Kittens are attracted to string-like objects and can ingest them. Also cut off any loose threads on cloth such as bedspreads, throws, or slipcovers.

Following these rules for kitten proofing your home will help ensure that your adorable little ball of fluff will grow into a healthy, happy cat.