

Common Household Poisons

If you suspect that your pet has been poisoned by a toxic substance, call your vet or a poison-control center right away. Use this chart and "Common Plant Poisons" on page 316 to help you identify the source of poisoning to your vet or the poison control experts.

Poison Source	Symptoms	Induce Vomiting	Give Charcoal	Give Oil and Bread	Bathe
Acids (bleach, drain cleaners)	Swallowed: drooling, pawing at mouth, abdominal pain. On skin: crying, rolling, licking	NO	NO	YES	YES. If ingested, rinse mouth with milk or water. If topical, rinse thoroughly with cool water.
Alkalis (ammonia, laundry detergent)	Swallowed: drooling, pawing at mouth, abdominal pain. On skin: crying, rolling, licking	NO	NO	YES	YES. If ingested, rinse mouth with milk or water. If topical, rinse thoroughly with cool water.
Antifreeze	Drunken behavior, increased thirst and urination, diarrhea, vomiting, seizures, panting, appetite loss	YES	YES	NO	N/A
Baker's chocolate	Drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, excess urination, hyperactivity, muscle tremors, seizures, coma	YES	YES	NO	N/A
Coal-tar products (phenol disinfectants, like Lysol; treated wood; fungicides; tar paper; photographic developer)	Depression, weakness, lack of coordination, coma, death	YES	YES	NO	YES. If the poison is on your pet's skin or coat, first, rinse thoroughly with cool water. Bathe with a mild dishwashing liquid, then rinse again with cool water.
Flea products (Carbaryl, Sevin, Propoxur, Frontline, Advantage, Program, Fenthion, Parathion, Ronnel, Trichlorofon) <i>Antidote available from vet</i>	Variety of signs include apprehension, muscle twitches, shivering, seizures, drooling, diarrhea, hyperactivity, depression.	YES, if swallowed	YES, if swallowed	NO	YES. If the poison is a powder, brush coat first, rinse thoroughly with cool water, bathe with a mild dishwashing liquid, then rinse again thoroughly with cool water.
Lead (paint, ceramics, linoleum, golf balls) <i>Antidote available from vet</i>	Abdominal pain, vomiting, seizures, lack of coordination, excitement and hysteria (i.e., excess barking), weakness, blindness, chewing fits.	YES	YES	NO	N/A
Pain medicine (aspirin, acetaminophen, ibuprofen)	Blood in vomit, appetite loss, drooling, drunk behavior. For acetaminophen (cats): blue gums, difficulty breathing	YES	YES	NO	N/A
Other medicine	Various signs; if you know your pet has ingested a particular medicine, call the vet or poison control center right away	YES	YES	NO	N/A
Pest baits (strychnine, vitamin D, warfarin, arsenic, bromethalin, cholecalciferol, metaldehyde, phosphorus, sodium fluoroacetate, zinc phosphide) <i>Antidote available from vet</i>	Range of signs include bloody urine and diarrhea, bleeding from body openings, thirst, staggering, abdominal pain and cramps, paralysis, seizures, strong garlic breath, coma, depression.	YES	YES	NO	N/A
Petroleum products (motor oil, gas, turpentine, paint, paint thinner, paint remover, lighter fluid, kerosene)	Vomiting, difficulty breathing, tremors, seizures, coma, respiratory failure, death	NO	NO	YES	YES. If the poison is on coat, rinse thoroughly with water, bathe with a mild dishwashing liquid, then rinse again.