

# How to Petproof Your Home

Puppies are like babies - they're curious and they teethe. But by following these suggestions, you can keep your possessions safe from your pet and protect him from domestic hazards as well.

- Check the areas where you store common household poisons to make certain that your puppy can't get near them. Laundry detergent, bleach, disinfectant, insecticide, cleaning fluid, fertilizer, mothballs and antifreeze are among the poisons that can be deadly.
- Don't leave nails, staples, brads, pins, aluminum-can tabs, or other sharp objects where a puppy can chew and swallow them. And don't let him play with plastic bags, which could suffocate him or cause serious problems if chewed and swallowed.
- Unplug, remove, or cover any electrical cords in your dog's confinement area. Chewing live wires can lead to severe mouth burns or death.
- Many common houseplants also pose a threat to your puppy's health. Poisonous ones include philodendron, English ivy, dieffenbachia, and caladium. Ask your veterinarian or university agricultural-extension service to give you a complete list of hazardous plants.
- To keep your puppy from chewing on the furniture, apply Bitter Apple, a harmless but foul-tasting product available at pet stores. Provide rawhide chews or other doggie toys to satisfy your pet's need to gnaw, and be sure to store shoes and other chewables out of paws' reach.