

- Keep the temperature regulated in the room avoiding any drafts. If the floors are hard-surfaced, lay plenty of towels/blankets on the floor so the animals have somewhere to get away from the chill of a cold floor.
- Remove any personal belongings that could be potentially dangerous to the animals and consider protecting your furniture and carpet with sheets or blankets. Kittens and puppies can be messy, especially when they're learning to use the litter box and potty train!
- Make sure the garbage, cleaning supplies, food bags and plastic bags are out of reach. Preferably in a cupboard, closet, or another room.
- Get into the habit of checking your refrigerator, oven, washer, dryer, freezer, dishwasher, etc. before these doors get closed. These horrible accidents happen more often than you would expect.
- If you are using a bathroom as your foster room, be sure to keep the toilet lid CLOSED at all times.
- Kittens and cats try to crawl into dryers because they are warm and cozy – always check before turning on your washer or dryer. Horrible accidents can also happen if you scoop up blankets and throw them in the wash without checking.
- Be careful with clothes irons, curling irons, plants or any other heavy items a rambunctious kitty or puppy may knock down or pull down itself.
- Keep your fosters out of garages and other dangerous areas that could expose them to extremely deadly chemicals like Antifreeze
- <http://www.petpoisonhelpline.com/blog/essential-oils-cats>
- [Review the top five feline toxins: www.petpoisonhelpline.com/uncategorized/top-five-feline-toxins](http://www.petpoisonhelpline.com/uncategorized/top-five-feline-toxins)
- [Review the toxic houseplant list](#)

- Keep all small items like rubber bands, paper clips, needles, fish hooks – anything a curious animal can swallow – out of reach.
- Never leave knives or razors in the bathroom or tub. Kitties especially love to play with these things and can cut their paws, tongue, or gums.
- Exposed electrical cords are a very real danger. Some animals love to chew them and end up getting an electrical shock – this can cause mouth burns or even death. Encase cords in the plastic flexible tubing sold at office supply stores.
- Never leave stove burners on without a pot on them; serious burns can result if an animal gets curious. Also, pipes behind hot water heaters can cause burns if a scared kitty hides there.
- Wood burning stoves and open fireplaces are also hazardous. The best way to prevent accidents is to keep fosters away from these things.
- Keep doors/windows closed, unless covered with a screen that is very securely in place and unable to be cut open. The window should only be open no more than 1 inch with a support in place so the window cannot be opened any further. A frightened cat/kitten can escape through the tiniest holes! If a cat/kitten does manage to get outside, attempt to get the cat/kitten back inside immediately. If you delay you risk them never returning. Call your foster coordinator immediately to determine a strategy to recapture the kitty.
- Keep plastic bags, which can cause suffocation, out of reach. Always break down chip and snack bags before throwing them away – some animals can get in the trash and get these stuck around their heads and then unable to get them off, causing suffocation and death.
- Remove ALL plants from their foster room. There are many toxic plants that can harm or even kill cats - specifically, Easter Lilies can very quickly KILL a cat if they get a little bit of pollen on them and don't even chew it!
- Xylitol is extremely toxic to animals and can poison a dog to death is accidentally ingested under good intentions, like sugar-free peanut butter. Read about the dangers here and always have that in mind!