

Kitten-Proof Your Home, for Kitty's Protection and Yours

- **Always keep the door to your clothes dryer closed, and double-check inside before using it.** Cats like to find dark, warm places to sleep, and the results could be tragic.
- **The toilet lid should always be kept down.** Kittens can not only drown if they fall in, but they can be poisoned by drinking water that may contain cleaning chemicals.
- If a cleaning chemical has been left in the bath, sink or on the kitchen or bathroom floor, the kitten should be kept out of the room.
- Lit candles are asking for trouble - extinguish all naked flames when puss is around, and put a guard around any fires.
- Aerosols should never be sprayed near the cat's food and water bowls.
- Plastic bags must be kept safely out of the cat's reach.
- Food scraps must always be cleared away promptly. Chicken bones can be very dangerous, as they splinter when chewed and the string that can be found on joints is also irresistible and potentially deadly to cats.
- Place all houseplants out of the way, and get rid of any that are toxic to cats. Check the Internet for a list of plants that are poisonous to cats.
- Hide all trailing electrical cables securely under carpets, or tape them to the floor or wall. A thick, cable protector (available from hardware stores) can also be placed over the cables, to make them chew-proof.
- Remove or shorten hanging tablecloths - many kittens are experts at clearing a fully-laid table!
- If you're into needlework, keep your supplies in a closed container. Needles and thread might appear to be fine playthings, but can be fatal if your kitten swallows them.
- Fold and secure your window blinds cord with a rubber band, out of kitty's reach. If she gets tangled up in it, she could strangle.
- If you don't want to find your floors littered with garbage, invest in covered wastebaskets and kitchen garbage containers.
- Keep the floor clean of stray rubber bands, ribbon and twine. All are hazardous when ingested by a kitten.
- Keep cupboard doors and dresser drawers securely closed. Cats can find all kinds of mischief inside, and can be injured if you close a drawer and the kitten is behind it.
- Cloth drapes are better left out of reach of your furry "curtain-climber". Tie them up securely until your kitten is trained to a scratching post. .