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## Kitten Proofing

One of the most important things you can do before bringing home a kitten is to crawl around your living space and look down, around, and up from a kitten's perspective.



Kittens use their natural curiosity to explore their world and their motor skills, as well as to sharpen their instinctive marking and hunting skills. Dangerous objects may be taste-tested and batted. Anything may be climbed on, under, behind or through. A kitten rubs against things to leave a mark then later, while grooming, licks what may have rubbed off on her fur.

Below are a few examples of what you can pounce on to make your kitten's new home safer!

- **Plants** — Eliminate all poisonous plants and do not let vines dangle. If kittens chew on non-toxic plants, spray them with Bitter Apple to prevent chewing again. (A list of feline-toxic plants can be found at [www.ThinkingOutsideTheCage.org](http://www.ThinkingOutsideTheCage.org). Visit our "Adoption 101" page.)
- **Outlets, wires and cords** — Cover outlets to protect little paws. Cover your cords or coat them with Bitter Apple or Tabasco to prevent chewing. Do not allow curtain/blind cords to dangle.
- **Household chemicals** — lock-up mothballs, detergents, medications and other hazardous substances.
- **Open waste cans** — cover or contain open waste cans, especially in the bathroom where floss and razors land.
- **Tiny objects** — Anything that could be swallowed should be picked up and secured as soon as it is dropped. This includes things like jewelry, small hardware, small toy parts or toys.

- **Windows** — check for loose screens and never leave windows open without tight screens.
- **Open doors and drawers** — Keep drawers, doors, and lids closed and always check for trapped kittens. You'd be surprised how easily a curious kitten can become trapped under the toilet lid or in the refrigerator, dryer, oven, or closet.
- **Rubber bands, string, yarn, twist ties, ribbon, balloons** — Pick up and store these items. Kittens have barbed tongues which point small items toward their throats in play.



- **Balconies** — Balconies are unsafe for kittens at any time. Cats do not recognize risk of height or “land on all fours.”
- **Garage and basement chemicals** — Keep kittens out of the garage and similar areas. Lock up chemicals like paint, paint thinner, anti-freeze and pesticides.
- **Breakables** — Put away glass and china collectables until your kitten has learned her limits!