

Keep your dog safe in and around your car (Part two)



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Keeping your pet safe from automotive dangers can be a daunting task. In **part one** of this topic you learned of some of the dangers to dogs in and around your vehicle. Part two is about motor vehicle fluids and the dangers they pose to your dog or other pets. Cars and trucks use many fluids to keep them running, perform tasks, or even to keep them clean, and most of those fluids are harmful and potentially fatal to your pets.



One of the most dangerous fluids that your pet can ingest is antifreeze. With the excessive heat in Texas, antifreeze is a common fluid to find on the ground due to overflow from an overheated car or a leak from a busted hose. Antifreeze has a sweet smell and pets are especially attracted to this fluid. Antifreeze may be found on the ground if your car has a leak or if you just worked on your car. As little as a couple teaspoons of antifreeze can be fatal to your pet. Clean up all spilled or leaked antifreeze and if your vehicle has a leak be sure to keep the fluid cleaned up off the floor regularly and have the leak repaired.

Other fluids that can leak from your car and be poisonous to your pet are windshield washer fluid, power steering fluid, brake fluid, transmission fluid, gasoline, motor oil, battery acid and corrosion, and any other specialized fluids that your car or truck may use. If you notice a fluid leak anywhere under your car, immediately wipe up the fluids and locate the cause of the leak. Have the leak repaired as soon as possible and keep the fluids off the floor and keep the pets away from the dangerous area. Store all motor vehicle fluids out of reach of pets and in sealed containers so that they can not be knocked over and ingested.



Automotive cleaners can also be poisonous to your dog or cat. Many of these items are kept in the garage or even inside the house. Pets can be attracted to the scents of car wash, wax, wheel polish, windex, and other automotive cleaning products. These products may be harmful to your pet if ingested or they come in contact with it. All automotive cleaning products should be kept out of reach of pets and in sealed containers.

Pets are very curious creatures and will investigate, smell, and lick almost anything.

This is why it is so important to take preventive measures to keep automotive fluids off the garage floor or driveway. Always clean fluids off the ground and keep your car or truck in good repair to help avoid leaks. Don't allow your pets to roam freely in the garage, driveway, or street. If you think that your pet has become sick by coming in contact or ingesting hazardous fluids or materials immediately take them to the veterinarian to be evaluated. Practice automotive pet safety and help keep your pets safe.