

Cleaning Safety / Cleaning Products / Toxic Substances

This is one more checklist / supply recommendation list to help our kitten homes understand what products are safe to use, and to identify some toxic substances/medicines/plants that should be avoided at all costs.

My #1 recommendation is that all trash cans in your home should be outfitted with lids, even the small ones.

Anything threadlike / wiring / long plastic / dental floss / straw wrappers / etc can be deadly if ingested out of the trash and it gets tangled up on their insides. Paint covered items, medicine soaked tissues, cleaning products on paper towels - the list can go on of toxic things that can get thrown away that we might not think of in the moment, but can be serious if your kitten gets curious and digs up out of the trash. Please make sure you are mindful of how your trash is being disposed of!

Cleaning Safety:

Many cleaning products are toxic to animals - think if you would feel safe licking the surface you just sprayed with cleaner, or if you'd want to put your face close to the fumes and inhale that substance. **If you wouldn't feel safe inhaling / ingesting that cleaner - you should RINSE THAT SURFACE WITH WATER AFTER USING THE CLEANING PRODUCT.** This is a requirement of lysol / most bleach products, but it's truly important that if you use these products that you actually do go back over the area with a water wash.

AVOID:

- Fabuloso
- Lysol
- Pinesol
- Swiffer Wet Wipes / Swiffer Wet Jet Solution (highly toxic)
- Comet Bleach Powder
- Toilet Bowl Cleaner (especially with rust remover)

These can be highly toxic to dogs and cats, and do not evaporate away as they dry. There are better and safer cleaning products out there. If you are loyal to one of these products and will not consider swapping them out - please wipe the surface down with water after you've used the product. **ESPECIALLY FLOORS AFTER MOPPING.**

- Do not let your pet walk across or come into contact with wet cleaning solution. P
- Remove your pet from the area while you clean and after washing, wiping down with water, and letting the area dry, then you can let your pet back into the area.

Or you can instead make the leap to using pet safe veterinary cleaning products~
These products are what I recommend and use throughout our whole home - and we have some very tough cleaning and odors to handle!

Safe Cleaning Products I recommend:

#1: RESCUE VETERINARY DISINFECTANT:

<https://rescuedisinfectants.com/buy-now/>

Or find on amazon:

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01LY3JI7T/ref=emc_b_5_t

Please read up on the FAQ's posted by the company who makes RESCUE:

<https://rescuedisinfectants.com/faq/>

- This is an incredible modern product. It is made of ACCELERATED HYDROGEN PEROXIDE with no scents added, **it is incredibly safe, powerful - and it kills most all parasitic pathogens, viruses, fungi (including all species of ringworm!) and bacteria.**

While it technically says on the website that it was formulated for hard surfaces and they can't 'technically' recommend added it to washing machines - everyone in animal husbandry and rescue / shelter / veterinary practices will soak laundry / clothing in this stuff if needed.

- You can clean anything with this. ANYTHING. It has serious scrubbing, degreasing, cleansing power. I don't recommend doing your dishes with it because that might get expensive lol - but I get the big concentrates and use them for all my household / carpet cleaning! I spray it down on my fabric furniture / couch / rugs, and it de-odorizes and disinfects wonderfully! I also use it in my little steam cleaner and it does a wonderful job in there too.
- Depending on how you dilute it, it will suds up as much as dawn dishsoap. Be careful to actually dilute it properly if you plan to mop with it because it does suds up quite a bit otherwise!
- This is very safe and will evaporate away quickly, I love using it on my hardwood floors and baseboards! Use the ready to use formula instead of swiffer solution - it's a great replacement that actually disinfects better than the toxic stuff swiffer wants to sell you :)
- **I cannot recommend this stuff enough, as much as I want to keep it to myself so the price never goes up, I have to recommend it to everyone taking a baby home from us! You can swap out so many toxic products for this one, it really is a great all purpose, jack of all trades kind of disinfectant and cleaner.**

#2 : CHLORHEXIDINE

https://www.amazon.com/Chlorhexidine-Horses-Dogs-One-Gallon/dp/B000HHNZVW/ref=sr_1_43?keywords=Durvet&qid=1702186896&rdc=1&sr=8-43

- **DO NOT GET THIS PRODUCT IN THE EYES OR EARS. USE CAUTION WHEN DILUTING IT AND WHILE SPRAYING IT.**
Otherwise this is a very safe, very wonderful cleaning product which, when diluted properly, is safe to bathe / spray your kitten with if they ever need it for skin disinfecting / bathing. They can safely lick it off their fur, and it even makes a wonderful mouth wash (I will link a mouthwash for cats below - do not use this for a mouthwash by trying to dilute it that far yourself)
- An entire gallon of this will last forever. This is a fantastic coat and skin cleanser, two tablespoons in one gallon of water will make a spray solution that is a great option if you don't want to give your cat a full bath, but you want to refresh them, or if you

need to wipe up their paws / tushy / etc. I add a capful into all of our cat/kitten shampoos to give them an extra boost!

- When diluted, this makes a great wash to wipe their chin with. If you ever see 'chin acne' on your cat, this will clear it up very quickly!
- **AGAIN, NEVER USE THIS TO CLEAN THEIR EYES OR EARS. The chin is fine, the mouth area is fine, but never the eyes or ears. Everything from the neck down is totally fine. You can use this to wipe down skin infections/hotspots, but do not use on open cuts or wounds.**
- This is an antibacterial, anti-viral, anti fungal cleaner that **works over time** to kill bacteria. So while it doesn't leave a film, it will stay where you wipe with it over a week to continue fighting bacteria. This is part of what makes it so powerful when fighting hotspots or skin issues if they ever arise, especially in older animals!
- THIS STUFF IS AMAZING IN LAUNDRY! It gets out the smelliest smells from our cat bedding and our work-day clothing lol! I just add a tablespoon to our regular detergent before starting a load.
- This stuff is amazing to use to clean out garbage cans / litterpans / rugs / carpets - it works hard to get out funky smells and you can spray something down and let it air dry / don't wash it off to really disinfect with it. There are different recommended strengths you can dilute it to depending on the need you have.
- **'Dentahex' is the chlorhexidine mouthwash formulated for pets.** This is amazing at keeping pet breath clean, and keeping their teeth healthy! I take a Q-Tip and soak it in Dentahex, and then rub it all over their gums and teeth. (use a fresh tip for each pet).
- They don't necessarily care for the minty taste, but it's really taken care of some serious gingivitis issues my dog had as she got older, and I use it preventatively in our cats at least once per week!
- https://www.amazon.com/Vetoquinol-Dentahex-Oral-Hygiene-Rinse/dp/B001S0I1JI/ref=sr_1_1_sspa?crid=Z4M7ETC8NY00&keywords=dentahex+oral+rinse+for+cats&qid=1702187665&srefix=dentahe%2Caps%2C110&sr=8-1-spons&sp_csd=d2lkZ2V0TmFtZT1zcF9hdGY&pvc=1

#3: Blue Dawn Dishsoap

We are a blue dawn dishsoap household lol!! Whether it's mopping floors, cleaning kitchen

counters, scrubbing the shower, or washing the cats - Dawn is a MAGICAL degreaser! A tablespoon of dawn added to laundry detergent (if safe for your washer model) does a fantastic job at washing any 'kitten laundry' that needs it, like pet beds, towels, and rugs. For anything I don't use Rescue or Chlorhexadine for, I use Dawn!!

Finally here are some toxic substances that can be lethal to pets / to cats:

- **Any medicine in the 'ibuprofen' family. I use ibuprofen myself frequently, and always make sure I am sitting down, over a plate, when I get these pills out of their bottle. What to us is a simple, safe medicine is extremely fatal to cats. I never take a chance that a pill could drop to the floor and be snatched up by a cat who thinks it is a treat before I can stop them. Please use extreme caution with any 'profen' medications.**
- **ESSENTIAL OILS: These can be incredibly dangerous to cats. NEVER USE EUCALYPTUS OIL AROUND PETS, IT IS DEADLY FOR CATS AND BIRDS.** Please be careful with lotions/wall plugs/candles that use these natural oils. Some oils are safe when diluted properly into lotion/a scent diffuser/wallplugs. <https://outwardhound.com/furtropolis/health-wellness/pet-safe-essential-oils-f-or-a-diffuser> - That is a great list for a general list of which oils safe or dangerous for both cats and dogs
- **Xylitol.** Xylitol is a common sweetener in packaged goods like gum and candy that can lead to vomiting, lethargy, and liver failure in pets. **Please be very careful to read ingredients before sharing with your cat - things like peanut butter / gum / tooth paste may contain xylitol and be deadly.** A curious kitten might want to taste these sorts of things, please keep them put away where kitten cannot get to them and chew through the packaging or tube.

There are certain plants that can be completely deadly to cats - Lilies of any variety need to be avoided at all costs. Every part of the lily is deadly to them, even the pollen. All varieties are incredibly toxic to them.

- **Lilium (Lily) species, including Tiger, Asian, Japanese Show, Easter, Stargazer, Casa Blanca can cause kidney failure in cats. Very little need be ingested to cause severe kidney damage and potential death.**

Additional dangerous plants are:

- **Cannabis sativa, if eaten, can cause CNS depression, incoordination, vomiting, diarrhea, drooling, increased heart rate, seizures, coma, potentially death.**
- **Cycas revoluta - Sago palm. All parts are poisonous, particularly the seeds. Ingesting just one or two seeds can cause vomiting, diarrhea, depression, seizures liver failure, potentially death.**
- **Tulip & Narcissus bulbs if eaten, can cause intense gastric distress, drooling, loss of appetite, CNS depression, convulsions, cardiac effects, potentially death if enough is ingested.**
- **Azalea/Rhododendrons all contain grayantoxins which cause vomiting, drooling, diarrhea, weakness, CNS depression and if enough is eaten, coma and death due to cardiovascular collapse.**
- **Nerium oleander is poisonous to all mammals, containing cardiac glycosides that can cause death if enough is ingested, or gastric distress, hypothermia, abnormal heart rhythm.**
- **Ricinus communis - Castor bean plant contains ricin which is extremely poisonous but found in the seeds. Though leaves also cause problems, eating leaves isn't usually fatal. Eating the seeds can easily be fatal, with severe abdominal pain, drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, excessive thirst, a weakness, loss of appetite, potentially leading to dehydration, muscle twitching, tremors, seizures, coma and death.**
- **Cyclamen contains cyclamine with the roots having the most of the toxin and if eaten, causes serious gastric distress, intense vomiting and there have been some fatalities.**
- **Kalanchoe contains toxins that cause gastric distress, and can be quite toxic to the heart, affecting rhythm and heart rate. Not normally fatal but could be if enough is ingested.**

- **Yew of any species is toxic to all animals. Yew contains taxine, highly toxic and if ingested causes muscle tremors, seizures, respiratory distress, & cardiac failure resulting in death is very possible**