

## **Common household hazards for cats**

### **Toxic food items:**

Some common human food items are poisonous to cats. The worst offenders are:

Garlic  
Onion  
Chocolate  
Coffee and tea

### **Toxic drugs:**

Cats are not little dogs or humans when it comes to drugs. Don't ever give a cat any medication unless instructed to do so by a Veterinarian. Also, remember to use caution when handling your own pharmaceuticals since the one time you drop a pill on the floor without noticing, it could seriously harm your family pet. Keep all drugs out reach of children and pets. Here are the worst human and dog drugs for cats:

Tylenol  
NSAID's including Carprofen and others for dogs  
Aspirin  
Anti-seizure meds  
Flea and tick products for dogs, including Advantix

### **Miscellaneous hazards:**

Ethylene glycol (Antifreeze) (even small amounts will cause kidney failure)  
Potpourri oils (can cause oral burns)  
Essential oils (oral burns)  
Pennies (red blood damage and life threatening anemia due to zinc)  
Electrical cords (oral burns and pulmonary edema, electrocution risk)

### **Risk of intestinal blockage:**

String, thread, yarn, floss, tinsel, ribbon  
Small objects, toy parts  
Hair bands / ponytail bands / rubber bands  
Dried flowers  
Ear plugs  
Ear buds from headphones  
Pistachio and other nut husks  
You name it! If it fits into a cat's mouth there will be some risk of them swallowing it and needing surgery for removal.

### **Plants (short list):**

Lilies, Daylilies, Foxglove, Oleander, Lily of the Valley  
Dieffenbachia, Philodendron  
Peace Lily, Calla Lily, Rhododendrons  
Castor Beans  
Cycads

There are many, many other plants that are known to be hazardous to cats. For more information and the most comprehensive lists of plants known to be hazardous, and those known to be safe for cats, see:

<http://www.aspc.org/Pet-care/poison-control/plant-list-cats.aspx>