

Garden & Garage Hazards

Garden:

Pesticides, Insecticides and Rodenticides

Most garden products designed for residential use are generally safe, provided you follow directions and wait the recommended length of time before allowing your dogs back into the treated area. That said, some garden products are so nasty they account for numerous fatal poisonings each year. The worst of these are:

Snail/slug baits containing metaldehyde. Using these poison pellets, which are formulated with molasses and bran to attract their victims, are akin to throwing kibble all over your yard. Dogs love the smell and taste, and consuming even a small quantity can be deadly. There are “pet safe” versions of snail bait, formulated with iron phosphate, that are less dangerous and less attractive to most dogs — however you must still prevent your dog from ingesting these.

Systemic insecticides containing disulfoton (typically found in rose and flower foods to guard against aphids and other sucking insects) are highly toxic and should be avoided. Systemic insecticides are absorbed by the root and then distributed to the rest of the plant. Dogs are most commonly exposed to disulfoton by ingesting granular rose care products applied to the soil at the base of the plant by pet owners, usually after they have been mixed with attractive fertilizers such as blood or bone meal. Disulfoton may also be applied to potted roses before purchase.

Fly baits containing methomyl and rodent-control products are highly toxic and often come in granular form with a sweet taste that attracts dogs.

Toadstools and mushrooms. Some varieties can have dangerous neurotoxic effects, so it's smart to remove these as they crop up to keep your yard pet-safe.

Compost piles can be the source of hazardous molds and toxins, and often attract hungry, nosy dogs. Be sure these are secured and out of reach of your dogs.

Cocoa bean mulch. For the same reasons chocolate is toxic (theobromine and caffeine) - this mulch made from cocoa bean shells is also toxic, and smells and tastes attractive. There are plenty of alternatives to this type of mulch so it should be avoided.



Garage & Storage Shed Hazards:

Antifreeze/radiator coolant. Antifreeze made with ethylene glycol is so toxic that just a few tablespoons (45 ml) can kill a dog. It has a sweet taste and can leak from under a car (especially in hot summer weather), going unnoticed, until the owner drives away and the dog wanders in and licks it up. Thankfully, there are now many safer options for use in homes with pets. These formulations contain propylene glycol and are usually marked as “pet and child safe.”

When pet-proofing your garage, don't just think toxins. Also ensure that sharp objects, choking hazards and large bags of kibble are secured out of reach - as well as items such as:

Charcoal briquettes

Swimming pool chemicals

Paints and pain thinner

Fishing hooks, weights and tackle

Paintball pellets, leadshot

Golf balls and racquetballs

Ice-melting products and road salt

Fallen nuts, bolts and screws

Sharp tools

