

## TOXIC SUBSTANCES AROUND THE HOUSE

You wouldn't expect a dog to eat the contents of an ashtray or old mothballs. But human logic doesn't apply to curious puppies, or dogs with indiscriminate eating habits! The items listed below can all pose a danger to dogs, so be sure to keep them well out of reach, and call your veterinarian or Poison Control Center if your dog has eaten or been otherwise exposed to a toxic substance.

Acetaminophen, such as Tylenol and Excedrin

Antidiarrhea products like Lomotil and Imodium

Aspirin

Batteries, all kinds, typically found in remote controls, watches, hearing aids, and toys

Bleach

Breath strips

Citrus-based cleansers

Diet pills

Essential oils such as lemon, tea tree, eucalyptus

Fabric softener sheets

Glues, especially strong-hold or expanding glue products

Homemade play dough or modeling clay

Household cleansers such as ammonia, dishwashing and laundry detergent, drain cleaner, and furniture polish

Ibuprofen/NSAIDS such as Aleve, Advil, Nuprin, Motrin, or Vick's NyQuil

Lead items (old paint, drapery weights, wine-bottle cork foils)

Marijuana, cocaine, and recreational drugs

Matches

Mothballs

Mouthwash

Pennies (U.S.) minted after 1982 (due to high zinc content)

Phenol-based cleaners like Lysol or Pine-Sol

Potpourri, especially liquid potpourri

Prenatal and other human vitamins, especially high-iron formulations

Prescription medications such as antidepressants, birth control pills, painkillers, and other opiates

Rat and mouse bait-traps and rodent-control products

Rubbing alcohol

Tobacco and nicotine products such as snuff, nicotine gum, cigarette butts, cigars, transdermal patches, and more

## myth busters: silica gel packets

You've seen them in bags of dog treats, vitamin bottles, and various packaged foods—those little packets stamped **DESSICANT: DO NOT EAT!** These tiny fear-provoking pouches are filled with silica gel, a substance used to absorb moisture and increase a product's shelf life. And while it's true they are not meant for human or canine consumption, one or two of these packets should not be harmful if accidentally consumed by your dog.