

Household Toxins & Emergency Numbers

Top hazards, dose thresholds, and who to call

Call immediately if exposure occurs

ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center: (888) 426-4435 (24/7, \$95 consultation fee). Pet Poison Helpline: (855) 764-7661. Both have veterinary toxicologists on-call. Save these to your phone now.

Xylitol · severe at any dose

The artificial sweetener in sugar-free gum, peanut butter, mints, and many baked goods. As little as 0.1 g/kg can cause hypoglycemia; 0.5 g/kg causes liver failure. A single piece of sugar-free gum can be fatal to a small dog. Read every peanut-butter label before sharing.

Chocolate · dose-dependent

Theobromine toxicity. Dark and baker's chocolate are 5–10× worse than milk chocolate. Mild signs at ~20 mg/kg, severe at 40+ mg/kg, lethal risk at 100+ mg/kg. Rule of thumb: 1 oz of milk chocolate per 10 lbs is the warning line; for dark chocolate, 1 oz per 30 lbs.

Grapes & raisins · idiosyncratic

Acute kidney failure in some dogs at any dose; the toxic compound (now identified as tartaric acid) varies by grape source. There is no safe dose. Treat any ingestion as an emergency.

Onions, garlic, leeks, chives

Allium toxicity. Causes oxidative damage to red blood cells. ~5 g/kg of onion or 1 g/kg of garlic is the documented danger zone. Concentrated forms (powders, broths) are higher-risk than fresh.

Other top-25 hazards (ASPCA)

Macadamia nuts, raw bread dough, alcohol, marijuana, NSAIDs (ibuprofen, naproxen), acetaminophen, prescription human meds, antifreeze, rodenticides, slug/snail bait, pennies (zinc), lily plants (cats — fatal kidney failure), sago palm. Lock human-medicine bottles up — they're the #1 ASPCA call category.

Sources: ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center · Pet Poison Helpline · AAHA Toxicology Guidelines