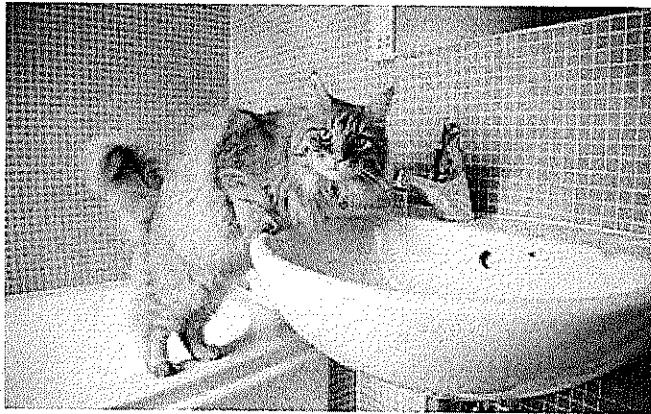


Cat Proofing the Home



Cats, like a lot of youngsters, will eat almost anything. And they will play with anything that can move! Whether you're thinking about adopting a new feline friend or already have a cat or two (or three or four!); it's important — and easy — to cat-proof your home for your naturally curious cutie.

Bathroom and Laundry



Try to get all family members into the habit of leaving the toilet lid down. Cats, especially small kittens or less agile older cats, can fall in and drown.

Many bathroom essentials are toxic to cats. Make sure any medications and other toxic items are stored securely. Stow all breakable items and hazardous objects safely in cabinets, cupboards and drawers; if your cat figures out how to open doors (some do), use baby proofing latches to keep him out.

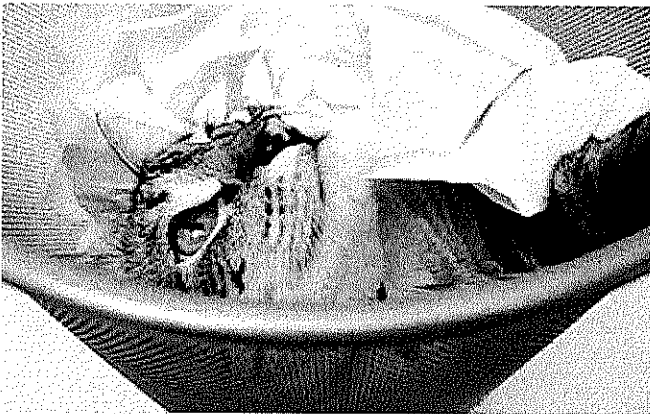
In the laundry room, always check your dryer before starting it (cats love taking naps on — or in — the dryer) and store detergents, bleach and other chemicals in a kitty-proof container.

Windows



Hanging cords, such as those for curtains, blinds and lamps can be strangulation hazards. Bundle all cords or tie them off out of reach. Make sure all windows are covered with sturdy screens and, if your cat will be an indoor pet, watch that he doesn't scoot out as you enter and leave the house.

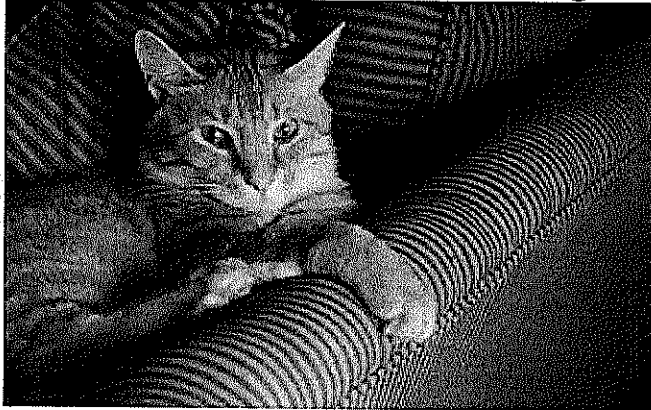
Trash Cans and Containers



Don't underestimate your cat! Curiosity can get the best of any kitty and those paws are capable of turning over a trash can or even knocking a lid open.

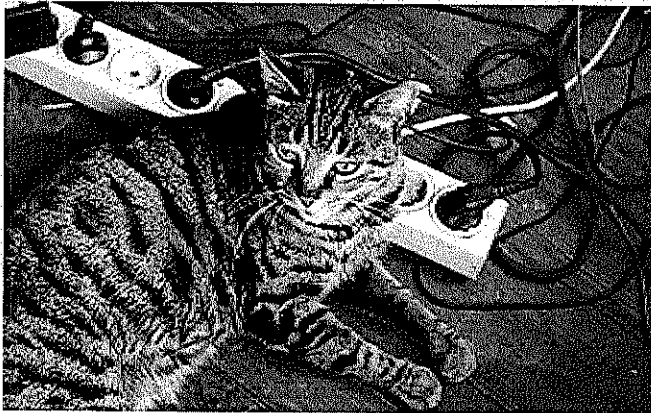
Keep garbage, a source of such dangerous items as bones and sharp tins, in a trash can with a sturdy lid and latch. Plastic bags are as dangerous for cats as they are for small children so make sure you securely stow your plastic bags or keep them in a sealed recycle bin.

Furniture and Reclining Chairs



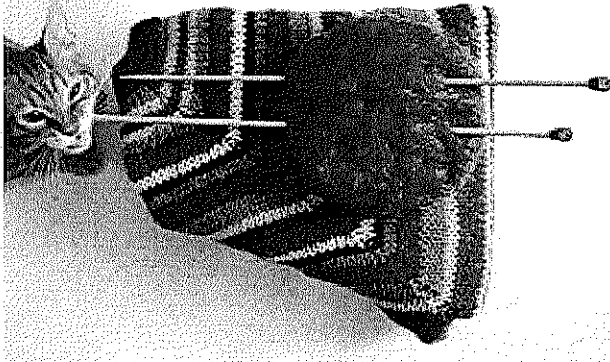
Cats will investigate anything they can fit into, and they can fit into tight spaces. The warmth and darkness of furniture makes it an attractive nest. Also check furniture with mechanisms — recliners and sofa beds — before using or closing them.

Electrical Chords



Chewing an electrical cord can be fatal, and pulling on it may bring down an appliance that could injure your cat. Lamps can be strangulation hazards. Bundle all cords or tie them off out of reach.

Needles and Thread



Strings, yarn, dental floss, elastics and especially needles and thread are highly enticing, but if swallowed they can do serious, often fatal, damage. Store anything string-like and any items small enough to swallow in a drawer or somewhere that feline paws can't penetrate.