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## Hidden Dangers in your Garage

It is very important to put all chemicals away or have your dog 100% supervised while in your garage. Below are common chemicals found in our garage and why they are dangerous. Many of these chemicals compounds are applied in and around our home so special precaution must be used when using them as directed. **If you think your dog has ingested a harmful chemical get them to a vet immediately. If after your regular vet hours, the vet emergency in Bend is at 1245 SE 3<sup>rd</sup> St. and phone number is 385-9110. If there is an antidote, vets will have supplies on hand. If your dog has vomited and you are not sure what they ingested, bring the vomit sample with you to your vet so they can run an analysis to determine the toxin.**

**Antifreeze:** this is especially dangerous because it is sweet and dogs and cats are attracted to it. The chemical that is toxic is Ethylene Glycol (EG). For dogs just one half teaspoon per pound of body weight is deadly. For cats, just one lick can be fatal. Activated charcoal and Fomepizole must be administered within an hour or two before the EG travels to the kidneys as this toxin can completely shutdown the kidneys. Check under your car regularly for leaks. Antifreeze containing Propylene Glycol (PG), available at most auto parts stores, is a *safer* formula. Look for PG on the ingredients list. Most will have a label advertising this formulation as kid and pet safe. When you get your radiator flushed, have your mechanic replace it with the Propylene Glycol formula. You will probably have to bring it in with you as most mechanics don't stock it. When buying a new car you can even have the dealer replace with the safer formula before you bring the car home. Watch for leaking antifreeze on streets and in parking lots and keep your dog away. **Symptoms of antifreeze poisoning include drunken behavior, increased thirst and urination, diarrhea, vomiting, seizures, panting, and a loss of appetite.**

**Pest Baits:** (includes strychnine, vitamin K, warfarin, arsenic, phosphorous, metaldehyde, zinc phosphate, sodium fluoroacetate). These baits are designed to kill pests like snails, insects, and rodents. They are designed to interfere with the nervous system or blood clotting. The problem is that to attract these pests, the products add grain or sweeteners which attract our pets as well. Many formulas contain a variety of the chemicals listed above. **Symptoms include excessive drooling, bloody urine and diarrhea, bleeding from body openings, thirst, staggering, abdominal pain, paralysis, seizures, strong garlic breath, depression and coma.**

**Cocoa Mulch:** this is a mulch widely distributed in lawn and garden stores. It contains theobromine, the same ingredient found in chocolate and cocoa. Dogs like to chew on mulch and many have died from consuming the cocoa mulch. I do not believe there are any warnings on the label, so buyer beware.

**De-Icers:** Usually dogs don't eat de-icer since it doesn't taste good but I know some dogs, especially puppies who taste test everything. Most commonly it is adsorbed by drinking puddles of water on the sidewalk or eating snow balls off the feet after a walk. This can cause burns of the mouth, throat, esophagus, and stomach. De-icers are also a major skin irritant causing burns on the paws. Look for pet and children-safe formulas for your own walkways and sidewalks. Do not induce vomiting. Symptoms when ingested include crying out and pawing at the mouth. Symptoms of skin exposure are excessive licking of the feet and sores on the paws and pads.

**Spray Insecticides:** If you need to spray your house to treat for termites, roaches, ants or fleas, remove your pets for at least 48 hours and up to a week after the application to allow the house to air out. Make sure to secure pet bedding and pet bowls until you have finished spraying. **These sprays are carcinogenic and can affect the nervous system if inhaled.**

**Lawn and Garden Chemicals:** If using herbicides, pesticides, or fungicides in your yard keep your pets off the lawn for at least 48 hours and up to a week after using them. This includes your weed and feed fertilizers. These days there are lots of great organic products that are safe for our pets and safe for our precious high desert environment. **The non organic sprays are carcinogenic and can affect the nervous system.**

**Household Cleaners:** Bleach, detergents, floor wax, drain cleaners, and toilet bowl cleaners and other commercial solvents can be very toxic. They can cause burns of the skin, mouth, throat, esophagus, and stomach. Keep them out of reach and keep your toilet bowl lid down. Try to use environmentally friendly products. Do not induce vomiting if the product contains an acid. Symptoms if swallowed include abdominal pain, pawing at the mouth and drooling. Skin contact symptoms include crying out, rolling and licking.

**Petroleum Products:** (gasoline, motor oil, kerosene, turpentine, some paints) If inhaled these products can cause pneumonia. If swallowed these products can be fatal. Symptoms include difficulty in breathing and respiratory failure if inhaled. If swallowed symptoms include vomiting, tremors, convulsions and coma.

Just like with our children, we need to keep our pets away from harm. With a little knowledge, common sense, and precaution, we can keep our pets safe from common household products we use in our daily lives.

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