

# We've got Winter all wrapped up

Keep your dog safe this winter  
by avoiding these hazards



## OUT AND ABOUT



### Darker nights

Darker nights can reduce your dog's ability to be seen. Ensure you and your dog are visible with reflective leads, collars and high-visibility vests.



### Antifreeze

Ethylene glycol, as it's officially known, is highly dangerous. It is sweet tasting and palatable and even a relatively small quantity can cause potentially fatal kidney damage.



### Ice, snow & grit

Ice and snow may get caught in the space between their toes which can cause frostbite. Salt and other chemicals used to grit roads and pavements can also be an irritant to your dog's pads, especially if they have any small abrasions.



### Freezing temperatures

Slim dogs with a short hair coat, such as greyhounds and chihuahuas, can feel the cold and you may find that as your dog gets older they start to feel the cold more. Dogs are just as sensitive to cold weather as people, and hypothermia is a risk if they're exposed to extreme temperatures.

## FOOD AND DRINK



### Chocolate

Chocolate contains a stimulant called theobromine, a bit like caffeine, that's poisonous to dogs.



### Alcohol

Alcohol is significantly more toxic to dogs than humans and may cause vomiting, diarrhoea, difficulty breathing, tremors, coma and even death.



### Christmas pudding and mince pies

All grapes, raisins, currants and sultanas and food that contain them are toxic to dogs.



### Artificial sweeteners

One sweetener in particular, xylitol, is found in many foods, including some cakes. Ingestion can lead to potentially fatal hypoglycaemia, acute liver disease and blood clotting.



### Macadamia nuts

Can cause weakness, tremors, vomiting and hyperthermia within 12 hours of ingestion.



### Blue cheese

Most blue cheeses contain a substance called roquefortine C, which dogs are sensitive to.



### Onions

Can cause stomach irritation and lead to red blood cell damage and anaemia.



### Cooked bones

Once cooked, bones become brittle and splinter easily. They can pierce your dog's digestive tract or cause obstructions.



## FESTIVE DECORATIONS



### Christmas trees

Pine needles can cause mild stomach upset, cuts to the mouth and, in severe cases, even perforation of the intestines.



### Fairy lights

Dogs often try to eat cables, including fairy lights. These can cause electric shocks if chewed.



### Glass baubles

These tend to smash into shards when eaten, causing irritation, perforation or blockages.



### Salt dough ornaments

Made by mixing flour and salt with water, these can cause potentially fatal salt toxicosis. Symptoms include vomiting, diarrhoea and seizures.



### Tinsel

Can cause blockages, or even worse - work its way into the intestine, which can be extremely serious.



## PRESENTS



### Toys

Some dogs will swallow anything that looks appealing, including children's toys, even if it's likely to put them at risk.



### Wrapping paper

While toxicity is low, eating a large amount of paper may cause an obstruction in the stomach.



### Batteries

Ingestion of batteries is more common at Christmas and can cause chemical burns and heavy metal poisoning.



### Silica gel

Commonly found in packaging and typically non-toxic, these can cause blockages in the gut.

