TOXIC KITTY

Christmas cat-safety checklist

A one-page guide to keeping your cat safe over the festive season.

Scan for the Toxic Kitty app

Flowers and plants

- [ ] Lilies are an emergency. Every part of a lily is toxic to cats, including the pollen and the water in the vase. A cat can be poisoned just by brushing against the flowers and licking pollen off its fur. If your cat has had any contact with a lily, call your vet straight away. Check every bouquet and ask florists for lily-free arrangements.
- [ ] Poinsettia: keep it out of reach. It is mildly toxic and can cause mouth irritation and vomiting.
- [ ] Mistletoe and holly: keep them, and their berries, well out of reach. Both can make cats unwell, with vomiting and diarrhoea.

Festive food

- [ ] Chocolate, including chocolate tree decorations and selection boxes.
- [ ] Raisins and grapes, which means mince pies, Christmas pudding and Christmas cake too.
- [ ] Onion and garlic, which are common in stuffing and gravy.
- [ ] Alcohol, including boozy desserts and drinks left within reach.

Tinsel and ribbon

- [ ] Tinsel, ribbon and string can cause a serious gut blockage if swallowed, which can need emergency surgery. Use them sparingly or skip them, and tidy away gift wrap after presents are opened.
- [ ] Hang decorations higher up, avoid glass baubles and secure the tree so it cannot topple.

⚠ Suspect poisoning? Call your vet or Animal PoisonLine

If you are worried

- [ ] Call your vet straight away. Do not wait for signs to appear and do not try to make your cat sick. Take the plant, packaging or a photo with you.
- [ ] Animal PoisonLine: 01202 509000. A 24-hour service run by the Veterinary Poisons Information Service. A fee applies per call.
- [ ] Save your vet's number, your out-of-hours vet and Animal PoisonLine in your phone before Christmas.

Sources checked 22 October 2026: Cats Protection, ASPCA, Animal PoisonLine. Full guides at www.toxickitty.app.

Shared by Toxic Kitty (https://www.toxickitty.app), an iOS app that checks plants, foods and household items for cat toxicity. If you are worried, always contact your vet.