

Are These Plants SAFE For People and Pets?

In our quest to find interesting and beautiful living things for our homes, we forget that these are plants that evolved for millions of years in the wild, and have developed sophisticated, and sometimes toxic defenses against the onslaught of feeding and predatory pressures.

In the home setting, children, and pets can be drawn to the interesting look of a plant or need to compulsively chew on things. This can lead to serious troubles when the plant possesses toxic properties.

First, if you suspect that a child or pet has come in contact with or ingested a offending plant, call 911, or the National Poison Control Center in the paragraph below. Otherwise, the resources below can help you identify the plant and provide information about it's toxicity or lack there of.

National Poison Control Center: (800) 222-1222

ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center: (888) 426-4435

Pethelpful.com Good list of plants

ASPCA.org Exhaustive list of indoor and landscape plants

Humanesociety.org Good list of plants, including which parts of plant are toxic.

Remember, even apples can make you sick if you eat enough of them. Some plants are mildly toxic, some deadly. Some to humans, others only to pets. Some affects are dramatic but temporary, others debilitating. Some cause only skin rashes or upset stomachs,.

Since there are an large number of plants that are even mildly toxic, it is easier to start with the plants that are pretty safe to have in the home, around kids and pets:

SAFE FOR KIDS AND PETS

African Violet (Saintpaulia)	Air plants (Tillandsia)	Aluminum Plant (see Water melon plant)
Banana (Musa)	Bromelids	Bamboo, Lucky (Draceana)
Bird Nest Fern (Asplendum)	Boston Fern (Nephrolepsis)	Burros Tail (Sedum mor.)
Camellia	Canna (cannaceae)	
Cast Iron Plant (Aspidistaiae)	Coleus	C mas Cactus (Schlumbergia)
Coffee	Copperleaf (Acalpha)	Echeveria succulants
Elephant Bush (Portulacaria)	False Aralia (Dizygotheca)	Fiddleleaf Fig (Ficus)
Friendship Plant (Billbergia)	Gloxinia	Goldfish Plant (Columnea)
Grape Ivy (Cissus)	Hens and Chicks (Echuveria)	Haworthia Succulants

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SAFE FOR KIDS AND PETS cont'd

Hibiscus	Japanese Aralia (Fatsia jap.)	Jasmine (Jasminium)
Kimberly Queen Fern (Asplenium)	Lipstick Plant (Aeschynanthus)	
Mandevilla	Money Tree ((Pacharia aq.)	Mosaic Plant (Bertolonia)
Norfolk Island Pine (Araucana)		
Parlor Palm (Chamnedorea)	Peacock Plant (Calathea)	Peperomea spp.
Phalaeropsis Orchids	Piggyback Plant (Tolmiea)	Prayer plant (Maranta)
Polka Dot Plant (Hypoestes)	Radiator Plant (Peperonia)	Palms (various genus)
Purple Passion Plant /Velvet Plant (Gynura)		Rose spp.
Rosemary spp.	Rubber Plant (Ficus ele.)	Sensitive plant (Mimosa)
Silver Dollar Plant (Lunaria ann.)		
Spider Plant (Chlorophytum)	Swedish Ivy (Plectranthus)	Tibochina spp. (Air Plants)
Wandering Jew (Tradescantia)	Wax Plant (Hoya car.)	Watermelon Plant (Peperonia)
Zebra Plant (Aphelandra)	Zebra Cactus (Haworthia spp.)	

POTENTIALLY TOXIC HOUSEPLANTS TO KIDS AND PETS

The plants listed below are toxic to humans and pets to varying degrees. The **most toxic** are highlighted with an (*). As with most things, the more exposure or amount ingested, the worse the effects. Also, sometimes only certain parts of the plant are toxic. Use this list as a starting point and be aware this is by no means an authoritative or exhaustive list.

TOXIC AND SAFE PLANTS

Aloe	Crown of Thorns (Euphorbia)	Hyacinth (Hycinthus)
*Angel's Trumpet (Brugmansia)	Cycads (Cycadasea)	Hydranagea
Anthurium spp.	Cyclamen	Iris
Asian Lily (Lillium)	Daffodill (Narcissus)	Jade (Crassulla ov.)
Amaryllis (Hippeastrum)	Desert Rose (Adenium)	Kalanchoe sp.
Arrowhead Vine (Syngonium pop.)	Dracaena	Lace Fern (Microlepia)
Asparagus Fern (Protosparagus)	*Dumb Cane (Difffenbachia)	Lady of the Night (Brunfelsia)
Aucuba japonica	*Easter Lily	Lantana spp.
Avocado (Persea)	Elephant Ears (Alocasia, Colocasia)	Lily of the Valley (Convallaria)
Azalea spp.	Emerald Fern (Protosparagus)	Macadamia Nut
Begonia	English Ivy (Hedera)	Mistletoe (Rhipsalis)
Boxwood (Buxus)	Eucalyptus spp.	Morning Glory (Ipomea)
Bouganvillia	Euphorbia spp.	Mother-in-Law Tongue (Sansevieria)
Blue Star Fern	Fiddle-Leafed Fig (Philodendron)	Narcissus spp.
Caladium	Fig, Weeping (Ficus)	Nephthisis (Syngonium pop.)
Calla Lily (Zantedeschia)	Fishbone Cactus (Ephiphyllum ang.)	Night Jasmine (Cestrum)
*Castor Bean (Ricinus)	Flamingo Plant (Anthurium)	*Oleander (Nerium)
Cerimen (Monstera)	Gardenia	Onion (Allium)
Chinese Evergreen (Agleonemea)	Gladiolas (Gladiolus)	Ornamental Pepper (Capsicum)
Chinese Money Plant (Pilea)	Geranium (Pelagonium) mild	Oxalis, Large Clover
Christmas Rose (Helleborous)	Glory Lily (Gloriosa)	Passion Flower (Passiflora)
Chrysanthemum (Dendranthemum)	Golden Trumpet (Allamanda)	Peace Lily (Spathiphyllum)
Clivia	Heavenly Bamboo (Nandina)	Philodendron spp.
Cordastrum	Holly (Ilex)	Pointsettia (slightly toxic)
Corn Plant (Dracaena)	Hurricane Plant (Monstera)	Plumosa Fern (Protosparagus)
Croton (Codiaeum)		

POTENTIALLY TOXIC HOUSEPLANTS TO KIDS AND PETS, cont'd

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- Umbrella Plant (Schefflera)
- Pothos (Epipremnum), includes Golden and Marble Queen var. Urn Plant, Silver Vase Plant (Aechmea fas.)
- Ponytail Palm (Beaucarnea rec.) *Yew (Taxus)
- *Precatory Bean (Arbus) ZZ Plant (Zamroculus zam.)
- Primula spp.
- Rabbit's Foot Fern (Davallia)
- Ribbon Plant (Dracaena)
- *Rosemary Pea (see Precatory Bean)
- Sago Palm (Cycad) Fruit.
- Sapphire Flower (Browalia)
- Schefflera spp.
- Sensitive Plant (Mimosa)
- Silver Dollar Jade, Silver Jade (Crassulla arb.)
- Streptocarpus (Cape Primrose)
- Staghorn Fern (Platycenium bif.)
- Star Jasmine (Trachelospermum)
- String of Beads (Senecio row.)
- Swiss Cheese Plant . See Hurricane Plant.
- Sweetheart Vine (Philodendron or Cerpegia)
- Ti Plant, Hawaiian Ti (Cordyline)
- Tiddlywinks , Persian Violet (Exacum)
- Tomato (Solanum)
- Tulip (Tulipa)