

# PET HINTS

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## Renovating your home with a pet

Renovating is extremely popular and is a great way to revamp your house but it is important to give some consideration to your pets during this time.

There are many risks to a pet during a renovation that must be managed including the fumes from paints or varnishes, power cords from electrical equipment that may be just too tempting for a puppy that loves to chew, or unsecured fencing that may allow your pet to wander.

There is also the added stress of having unfamiliar people constantly coming and going from the house, loud noises and less attention from members of the family but with a bit of planning you can keep your pet happy during renovations.

- Ensure that, before you start renovating, your dog is wearing a collar and identity tag with your telephone number on it at all times. There is a greater risk of your dog wandering off onto the street when people are constantly coming and going through the property leaving doors and gates open.
- Areas, such as the garden shed, that your pet would not normally be able to access, can contain potentially lethal materials such as snail pellets, so make sure your pooch is kept well away from garden sheds or areas containing gardening equipment.
- There will be people coming and going from your house during a renovation and they can't be expected to keep an eye out for your pets. Make sure that your pet is in a secure area at all times.
- Make any changes to your pet's sleeping or eating areas prior to the start of the renovations. Changes in environment or routine can be very stressful for a pet so it is best to establish new habits before any major changes begin.
- If your renovations are substantial and you can't provide safe and secure surroundings for your pets, it may be best to temporarily move your pets to other accommodation. Cats, in particular, can become quite stressed by change and may benefit from being put in a cattery.

Just remember that during the renovation you don't forget that your pets rely on you for love and attention. Try to keep their routines the same for feeding and walking to maintain a sense of familiarity and keep them calm.