

Yes, floral foam can be dangerous if a pet chews or swallows it. The main concerns are irritation, choking, and a possible blockage in the digestive tract, so contact a veterinarian for advice.

Why floral foam is a problem

Floral foam is the lightweight material used to hold flower stems in place. Some blocks are made to soak up water for fresh arrangements. Others are dry and used with artificial or dried flowers. Neither type is intended for pets to eat.

A pet may break off crumbs or swallow larger pieces. Foam can irritate the mouth or stomach, and swallowed pieces may cause vomiting or digestive trouble. A large piece can also become lodged in the throat or farther along the digestive tract. The risk depends on the pet, the size of the piece, and how much was swallowed.

The rest of the arrangement matters too. Some flowers and leaves are toxic to cats or dogs. Flower food, wires, tape, and sharp stems may add other risks. Water in an arrangement can also contain bacteria or substances added to help flowers last.

What to do if your pet chews foam

Move the arrangement away from your pet. If loose pieces are visible in the mouth and you can remove them safely, take them out. Do not put your fingers deep into the mouth or risk a bite.

Call your veterinarian promptly, even if your pet seems fine. Tell them what happened and roughly how much foam may be missing. Have the packaging or a clear photo of the block and arrangement ready if you can. Mention any flowers, leaves, or flower food your pet may also have reached.

Do not make your pet vomit unless a veterinarian tells you to. Do not force food or water into their mouth. Your veterinarian can advise you on the next steps based on the animal and what it may have swallowed.

- Seek urgent veterinary care if your pet has trouble breathing, is choking, or collapses.
- Call a veterinarian promptly if you notice repeated vomiting, drooling, difficulty swallowing, belly pain, or unusual tiredness.
- Keep an eye on your pet after the incident and report any new signs to the veterinarian.

Keeping arrangements away from pets

Place arrangements where pets cannot reach them, including from nearby chairs or shelves. Cats can climb to spots that look secure from the floor, while dogs may pull down a low arrangement by its leaves or stems.

Clear away crumbs as soon as you unpack or trim foam. Put used blocks and loose pieces in a closed bin that pets cannot open. Check the floor and work surface after arranging flowers, since small fragments can be easy to miss.

Ask your florist about an arrangement without foam if you prefer to avoid keeping it at home. You will still need to check that the flowers and other materials are safe around your pet.

When in doubt, keep the arrangement out of reach and call your veterinarian if chewing has occurred.

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