

The Dangers of Xylitol in Dogs

What is Xylitol?

This is a common sugar substitute that is used as a sweetener in many products.

Common sweets where Xylitol is found:

- Sugar-free gum (most common source of toxicity in dogs)
- Low carb/ sugar free diabetic candies
- Sugar free baked goods
- Some dental products and mouthwashes, mints and toothpaste
- Some brands of peanut butter
- Some human brands of vitamins, supplements, and probiotics

What should you do if you suspect your pet ate food containing Xylitol?

Contact your veterinarian and Animal Poison Control immediately.

*Xylitol ingestion in CATS and other species is not documented at this time.

How much is toxic to my pet?

In humans, Xylitol has no effect on our blood sugar or insulin levels. However, in dogs it is quickly absorbed into the bloodstream and can cause:

- Profound Hypoglycemia (low blood sugar)
- Weakness/lethargy
- Decreased potassium
- Seizures
- Liver disease/ failure
- Bleeding
- Death

It takes very little Xylitol to cause signs of toxicity!

Depending on the type of gum, it may take only ONE piece!


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