

The Dangers of Xylitol

SUGAR SUBSTITUTE IS TOXIC TO DOGS



What is xylitol?

Xylitol is an artificial sweetener commonly found in sugar-free gum and candy, nut butters, oral-care products, and sugar-free baked goods. Synonyms to look out for on packaging include: **anhydroxylitol**, **xylite**, **xylitylglucoside**, and **Zylatol**. Other artificial sweeteners with similarly scary names (aspartame, sucralose, saccharin, and stevia) are not toxic to dogs, but should not be part of their diet.



Why is it dangerous for my dog?

When a human consumes xylitol, it is slowly absorbed into the system with little effect on blood sugar levels, making it popular among diabetics. In contrast, once a dog ingests xylitol, it is quickly absorbed into the bloodstream within 30 minutes resulting in profound hypoglycemia (low blood sugar). In some cases, xylitol ingestion in dogs can also result in life-threatening liver disease and bleeding abnormalities.

Signs of xylitol toxicity can occur between 9-72 hours of ingestion and include:

- Vomiting
- Lethargy
- Collapse
- Seizures

How will my dog be treated for xylitol toxicity?

When a dog ingests a product containing xylitol, **contact your veterinarian or a 24/7 emergency veterinary hospital**. If the dog is not showing symptoms upon arrival to a hospital, vomiting will likely be induced to empty the stomach and prevent absorption. If it is suspected that a toxic dose has been ingested, the patient may be hospitalized for blood work, monitoring, and supportive care.

To help pet owners handle this type of emergency, Angell Animal Medical Center's Emergency and Critical Care Service has partnered with your primary care veterinarian to provide 24/7 Emergency care for your pet.

For 24/7 Emergency visits please call:

617-522-7282 (Boston) or **781-902-8400** (Waltham) or visit: [angell.org/emergency](https://www.angell.org/emergency)

350 S. Huntington Ave.
Boston, MA 02130
617-522-7282

[angell.org](https://www.angell.org)

293 Second Ave.
Waltham, MA 02451
781-902-8400

[angell.org/waltham](https://www.angell.org/waltham)

