



TECH LINK

Protect Your Pets and Your Fiber Internet

As a pet owner, you likely know that pets are experts at finding and chewing on things they should not. However, one risk is often overlooked: the dangers that household cables can present to animals. Chewing cables can send an electric shock through your pet, which can cause burns, shutdown of vital organs, and eventual death. Damaged cords can also be quite expensive to replace! This danger and expense applies to cables, cords and fiber both inside and outside the home. Animals and cables just don't mix. Consider these pet-proofing suggestions to help them safely co-exist in your home:

1. Block Access

Any sturdy object in your home can act as a barrier between your pet and cords. Use bookcases, TV stands, cabinets, and dressers to keep your pet out of harm's way (and your cables safe!). Keep in mind that smaller pets can squeeze into small spaces which may make this method less effective. You can also run cords under rugs or floor mats.

2. Lift Cords Out of Reach

Getting cables/cords off the floor and attaching them to walls and furniture with adhesive-backed cord clips (or zip ties) covers all the bases, because pets can't hurt themselves with something they don't have access to!

3. Run Cables through Walls

Depending on your home's layout, construction materials and the location of your router, this may or may not be an option for you. However, if you have drywall, it can be relatively easy to drill two small holes through which you can thread your cords. Use a tool such as fish tape or a cable puller to feed the cord through the wall. Remember that cords can also be threaded through the attic or basement.

4. Wind Up Excess Cord

Excess cord and cable can be strangulation hazards to cats and dogs, so use a cord winder to get the extra length under control. Excess cables that stick out make them more attractive to pets.



5. Cover Cords or Camouflage Them

Wrapping cords is the easiest and least expensive approach. Use corrugated wire loom tubing or plastic spiral wrap, which are available from many office supply and other stores. Remember that some tubing and wrap may not be strong enough to protect cords from persistent pets. PVC piping is a sturdier option, but is also less flexible.

You could even consider a homemade solution such as a garden hose or camouflaging your cables so that they blend in with their surroundings. Choose cords or cable-covering supplies that are a close color match to your floors and walls. If your cords don't stand out, your pet will be much less likely to play with or chew on them.

6. Deter Pets

Apply an anti-chewing spray made of lemon juice, hot sauce, or pepper mixed in water to deter your pet. Important Note: Make sure to observe electrical safety for yourself! Water conducts electricity, so make sure you're not touching the electrical wires or appliances while applying the spray. Remember that these substances will dissipate over time, so you'll have to reapply them.

Provide an alternative to your attractive cords/cables. Pets who chew are often bored or frightened. Addressing the core problem by providing appropriate chew toys, playtime, and other activities may decrease chewing in general.