FOOD & PLANTS

Is a Peace Lily Toxic to Cats? Not Like True Lilies

Yes, but not like true lilies. A peace lily is not safe for cats: it irritates the mouth and can cause drooling and vomiting. It does not cause the kidney failure true lilies do.

By Catt County Cat Nippers • Reviewed October 30, 2026 • 6 min read • 8 cited sources

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The short answer

Yes, a peace lily is toxic to cats, so it is not a safe plant to leave within a cat's reach. The ASPCA lists the peace lily (Spathiphyllum) as toxic to cats and dogs. It holds insoluble calcium oxalates, which irritate the mouth when chewed.

It is not a true lily, though. True lilies and daylilies cause kidney failure in cats; peace lilies do not. Pet Poison Helpline says so plainly: a peace lily does not result in kidney damage in cats.

If you are not sure which lily your cat got into, treat it as an emergency: see are lilies toxic to cats.

Peace lily or true lily? How to tell

Plants called lilies are not equally dangerous, so the first thing to know is which one you have. ASPCApro describes how to spot each:

WHICH "LILY" IS IT?

Plant and how to spot it	What it does to a cat	How urgent
Peace lily (Spathiphyllum): waxy green leaves and a distinct flower, usually white, also yellow or green	Irritates the mouth. No kidney damage	Call your vet or a poison line
Calla lily (Zantedeschia)	Same crystals as a peace lily (ASPCA, Merck)	Call your vet or a poison line
True lily (Lilium), such as Asiatic: leaves radiate off a central stem, large trumpet-shaped blooms	Acute kidney injury. All parts are toxic, and pollen alone has caused it	Emergency

Plant and how to spot it	What it does to a cat	How urgent
`Daylily (Hemerocallis): flowers like a true lily, leaves almost grassy`	Acute kidney injury. All parts are toxic, and pollen alone has caused it	Emergency
`Lily of the valley (Convallaria): two glossy leaves per plant, small white or pink bell flowers`	Poisons the heart: vomiting, an irregular heartbeat, possibly death	Emergency
`Not sure which`	Could be any of these	Treat it as an emergency

Take a photo of the plant or keep a leaf: it helps the vet and the poison line.

Why a peace lily spares the kidneys

A peace lily's harm comes from the physical irritation of its crystals (ASPCApro). These are raphides, tiny needles bundled in cells through the plant, and chewing releases them into the mouth (Merck, Pet Poison Helpline). Unlike soluble oxalates, the insoluble kind is no concern for kidney injury (Merck).

True lilies and daylilies work differently. Any exposure to any part can cause acute kidney injury, and if treatment starts more than 18 hours afterward the damage might be irreversible (ASPCApro).

The shared name is the trap. In one study ASPCApro cites, 73% of owners whose cats were exposed to a lily did not realize the plant was toxic.

This quick sheet is the start of the guide. Still to read: Signs to watch for, If your cat chewed a peace lily, Easing the mouth, and what the vet may do and 3 more sections, plus the Toxic & Safe Houseplants for Cats Chart. Read it all free when you join our pet health emails at cattcountycatnippers.org/articles/is-peace-lily-toxic-to-cats

Sources

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