



XYLITOL: THE SWEET DANGER YOUR DOG CAN'T TASTE

Xylitol is **EXTREMELY TOXIC** to dogs. Even small amounts can cause life-threatening emergencies within minutes.

What is Xylitol?

Xylitol is a sugar substitute commonly found in “sugar-free” and “low-carb” products. Dogs process xylitol very differently than people, causing a rapid insulin release that can be fatal.

Common Products That Contain Xylitol

Check labels carefully—xylitol may also be listed as **birch sugar**.

- Sugar-free gum & mints
- Sugar-free candy
- Some peanut butters
- Baked goods & desserts
- Toothpaste & mouthwash
- Vitamins & supplements
- Allergy & nasal spray medications
- Keto or low-carb foods

Just ONE piece of sugar-free gum can be dangerous.

Signs of Xylitol Poisoning

Symptoms can begin within 10–30 minutes and may include:

- Vomiting
- Weakness or lethargy
- Trouble walking or loss of coordination
- Tremors or seizures
- Collapse

Higher doses may cause acute liver failure within 12–24 hours.

How Much is Toxic?

It doesn't take much.

- Very small amounts → severe low blood sugar
- Slightly higher amounts → liver failure

Small dogs are at especially high risk.



What To Do If Your Dog Eats Xylitol

THIS IS AN EMERGENCY!

- Do **NOT** wait for symptoms
- Do **NOT** induce vomiting unless directed
- Seek emergency veterinary care immediately
- Slightly higher amounts → liver failure

Bring the product packaging with you if possible.

The sooner treatment begins, the better the outcome.



Emergency Treatment May Include

At Animal ER of University Park, treatment may involve:

- IV glucose support
- Liver-protective medications
- Bloodwork & continuous monitoring
- Hospitalization when needed



Early treatment can save your dog's life.

How to Protect Your Dog

- Store gum, candy, and medications out of reach
- Check peanut butter labels every time
- Keep purses, backpacks, and gym bags secured
- Educate family and visitors about xylitol dangers



We Are Here to Help!

- Animal ER of University Park
- 8440 Cooper Creek Boulevard, Bradenton, FL, 34201
- (941) 355-2884
- Open 24/7

If you think your dog may have ingested xylitol, come in immediately. When in doubt, treat it as an emergency.

If you suspect your pet may have ingested Xylitol, contact your local emergency vet hospital right away. You can also connect with the ASPCA Animal Poison Control at 888-426-4435