

How do I Stop My Dog From Chewing on Things:

- 1. Training:** I know, I know. This is always the least popular of my answers. But, the plain truth is that you're dealing with a young carnivore who wants to taste test everything in your house. It is up to you to teach your new friend what is acceptable to chew on and what isn't. Choose a few toys for your pup. Don't confuse him by leaving too many toys out. Look into positive reinforcement training methods. Whenever you see your pet chewing on something he shouldn't, redirect his chewing onto one of his acceptable chew toys.
- 2. Chew-Stop Sprays:** There are several different brands available of bitter tasting sprays that are safe to use on furniture or other objects that you don't want chewed.
- 3. Pick Up After Yourself:** Nuff said. Sometimes the easiest steps are the ones that are the most difficult.
- 4. Exercise:** A tired dog is less likely to have excessive pent up energy and will be less likely to direct that pent up energy toward chewable objects in your home. Some thoughts: Fenced area where your pup can run, play dates with other pups, obedience classes, agility/flyball/tracking/etc., playing ball/Frisbee
- 5. Use His Noggin:** The more you teach your dog, the less focused he will be finding ways to occupy himself. Using food or treat puzzles that will force your dog to work for their food is a great first step. Find ways to teach your dog to "help" around the house. Retrieving different items (blankets, shoes, keys, groceries, etc.) is a fantastic way to put your pet to work. Keep his mouth occupied with positive activities.

Learn how to help your pet understand what it is that he IS supposed to be doing, don't just focus on what he ISN'T supposed to be doing.