



Image courtesy of [Pixabay](#)

Here Are the Best Tips for Making Your New Home Dog-Friendly

Buying a new home is exciting! You want to make it a haven for the whole family, your pup included. With the right planning and preparation, your home will be a safe, secure, soft landing for your furry friend.

Inside Your Home

Dogs are naturally inquisitive creatures, and many of the same items you would purchase to keep a toddler safe in your home will be appropriate for your dog. The experts at [Petful](#) have these recommendations:

- **Baby gates.** Set up baby gates (you can pick some up online [for \\$33.99](#)) to contain your dog in certain rooms, or to keep dogs out of rooms that aren't appropriate. If you decide not to put up gates, close the doors to rooms your dog shouldn't access.
- **Electrical cords and outlets.** Cover electrical outlets and contain cords.
- **Lock cabinets.** Attach child-safe locks on cabinets to keep dogs from getting into them.

- **Food containers.** Keep dog food in a secure container and make sure it's tightly closed. If you can keep it in a closet, all the better.
- **Trash cans.** Dogs will investigate trash for snacks and can get into trouble. Choose a can that your dog can't access or keep it in a closet.
- **Declutter.** Leaving things around can invite trouble. To keep your dog from chewing the remote or your new paperback, put these items in secure cabinets or high out of reach. Be sure to put bedside items such as lotions, jewelry, and medications out of reach.
- **Use a crate.** [Crating your dog](#) when you aren't home can prevent disaster. Dogs can destroy things like furniture, window sills, or carpeting.

It's also helpful to have plenty of supplies on hand to address any messes or accidents your pet might make inside your home. In addition to [cleaning supplies](#) that won't harm your pooch, you should seriously consider investing in a good pet vacuum that will take care of pet hair and dander, which can quickly get out of control before you know it.

Outside Your Home

Many dogs spend a lot of time outside. If you plan to allow your dog to freely roam your yard, you will need to pet-proof it first. Here are some things to keep in mind:

- **Install fencing.** As [Bob Vila points out](#), a safe and secure fence is crucial for your dog. Vinyl, wood, wire, and metal are potential options. Make sure your dog can't get over or under whatever you choose. You can install roller bars on fences for climbers. If you're going to install a wood fence, this typically costs homeowners \$1,500 - \$4,325 [in Kenosha](#).
- **Inspect your landscape.** Many common landscaping plants are poisonous to dogs, such as rhododendron, foxglove, and lily of the valley. Give your yard a thorough once-over to ensure your dog won't be able to access harmful plants. Make sure you don't use cocoa mulch since it contains a substance toxic to dogs. Also, consider greenery that your dog could ruin. Choose plants that are structurally sturdy with soft leaves so they can stand up to some of Fido's antics.
- **Offer activities.** Your dog will find things to do for entertainment, regardless of whether you provide activities. Offer some outdoor toys to keep your dog occupied. If your pooch likes to dig, a sand pit can suffice.

Hot tip: When choosing toys, [Petfinder suggests](#) that you select items dissimilar to things that are forbidden. That means no old socks or shoes, wood, or children's toys. Also, don't give your dog dangerous items like cooked bones that can splinter and be choking hazards.

The First Week Home

Your dog will need time to adjust to the new surroundings. A familiar bed and toy can help your pooch feel secure. Unfamiliar sights and sounds could spook your dog into running off. Walk

your dog on a leash when you're introducing your pooch to the yard and neighborhood. Some [experts recommend](#) spending the first week at home with your dog. Your pooch will feel more secure having you there. Gradually increase the time you spend away. If you can't stay home the first week, consider hiring a pet sitter or getting help from a friend.

Home Sweet Home for Your Pooch

When settling a dog into a new home, make sure you prepare properly. Ensure your dog is safe both inside and outside, and think through that first week. Making considerations for your dog will keep you both happy.