

## **Why does my Siamese cat chew on my clothes and blankets?**

It could be considered normal for a kitten to chew or suck on fabrics in the process of exploring its environment. Perhaps he is looking for a source of milk, or just having fun. As they get older, most kittens will outgrow fabric chewing. However, since it seems Siamese cats are particularly prone to this behavior even when they are mature, there may be a genetic behavioral component to this type of pica (ingestion of inedible objects). It is worthwhile to have your veterinarian check him for a physical reason such as a digestive problem or a bad tooth that might be the cause of the behavior.

It can certainly be challenging to try to get a cat to stop this chewing, but the earlier you try the better before it becomes a habit. If you are successful, you will not only save your sweaters, pillows, and socks, you will also prevent a potentially serious health risk for your cat. If he doesn't just suck on the fabric, but swallows enough of it, he can develop an obstruction in his stomach or intestines that will require surgery.

Perhaps your cat is bored and would be just as interested in other play toys. Try various textures of cat toys. Plastic cat balls that have treats in them can entertain your kitty and keep his mind off the fabrics. Planting oat grass or catnip in pots indoors may interest him and fulfill his desire to chew. Some cats eat fabric because they are seeking more fiber in their diet, so the healthy plants or a fiber supplement in their food may help. Do you have a climbing tree with different levels that he can play on? Do you play with your cat? Some cats enjoy interacting with you with dangling toys or chasing after wads of paper or ping pong balls.

The best prevention is to keep items that you don't want chewed off limits. Keep your bedroom or closet doors closed to prevent access. If that isn't possible, you may need to try spray deterrents on the objects. If nothing else helps, medications that are used to treat obsessive-compulsive disorders in people may be prescribed by your veterinarian.

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