

Cedar and Pine Shavings are Toxic to ALL Small Animals!

Cedar and pine shavings, the bedding choices most commonly used for small animals, have been found to contain toxins!

The news in a nutshell

AFRMA – Both cedar and pine contain phenols—that’s the stuff that makes them smell good. Phenols are caustic, poisonous, acidic compounds. These compounds cause constant irritation to the nasal passages, throat, and lungs of small animals giving bacteria an easy opening, thus commonly causing pneumonia. Phenols also affect organs such as the liver and kidneys, because these organs are responsible for filtering toxins out of the body. When presented with a large amount of toxins over time they are unable to filter it all out and begin to fail. An animal with a damaged liver will have a depressed immune system, which can lead to other medical conditions.

Bedding Alternatives!

Fortunately there are a number of good products on the market which take the place of traditional bedding.

See our web site for more choices at www.afirma.org.

Hardwood Beddings:

- Sani-Chips® [PJ Murphy Forest Products 1-800-631-1936](Aspen Chips)
- Aspen Shavings [Northeastern Products Corp. (518) 623-3161]
- Shredded Aspen [Aspen Bedding, Harlan Teklad 1-800-483-5523]

Paper Products:

- CareFRESH™ [Absorption Corp. 1-800-242-2287]
- ALPHA-dri [Shepherd Specialty Papers 1-800-382-5001]
- Cellu-Dri [Shepherd Specialty Papers 1-800-382-5001]

Pelleted Beddings:

- Gentle Touch™ [Gentle Touch Products (402) 332-0253](Aspen bark)
- Critter Country [Mt. Meadows Pet Products, Inc. 1-800-752-8864](winter wheat grass & other fibers)

If nothing else is available, less desirable products such as rabbit pellets or corn cob bedding also work. Please ask for additional information.

AFRMA CONTACT

- AFRMA
9230 64th Street
Riverside, CA
92509-5924
(951) 685-2350
- www.afirma.org