



# DESTRUCTIVE BEHAVIOUR

**BARK BUSTERS**  
HOME DOG TRAINING

## CHEWING

Dogs will chew for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to stress, boredom, teething or diet deficiency. There are several different ways in which you can try to prevent this, depending on your dog and what he is chewing. Keep in mind that dog's tastes vary and what deters one dog may not deter another. Try the following suggestions:

### **Crib Stop or Bitter Apple® spray is the most effective**

It is safe and the most multi-purpose deterrent available. It can be sprayed on just about anything as it does not stain and is non-toxic. Ask your Bark Busters trainer about this product and the most effective way to use it in conjunction with behaviour modification for your dog.

### **Mental stimulation will help reduce chewing if your dog is bored:**

Bark Busters can teach you easy, time-efficient ways to mentally exercise your dog.

### **Interactive toys are advisable:**

Toys will help to divert your dog's attention to a more interesting option for chewing when they need something to do. Some dogs also find chewing soothing, so if they have something to chew on that they won't get in trouble for, then it can reduce your stress and theirs.

### **Never give your dog old shoes or clothing items to chew:**

Most dogs will not recognise the difference between new or valuable items that you don't want them to chew, compared to the old shoes or clothing items you may have allowed them to have. It is best to make these items off-limits right from the start. Also be aware that allowing your dog to chew up plastic drink bottles may unintentionally teach your dog that it is OK to chew up other plastic items like plastic planters, hoses or garden furniture.

### **Never physically correct your dog for chewing:**

Correcting your dog after the fact may create more issues than it solves. Your dog will not connect the correction with the act unless you catch him doing it. It could also lead to the onset of aggressive behaviour toward humans as if your dog does not understand why you are angry with him.

## DIGGING

Digging is a normal behaviour for dogs. There are many reasons a dog will dig, such as to search for food, investigate sounds and smells, improve his shelter, make a bed out of the heat, or try to escape. Boredom, stress or a diet deficiency can increase the likelihood of digging. There are many different things that you can try; however, what works for one dog may

not necessarily work for another. We recommend a combination of training, prevention and safe deterrents as the most effective way to stop this behaviour. The following are additional strategies to try:

### **Find out where and when your dog digs:**

Look at the size, shape and number of holes as this may help you determine why your dog is digging.

### **Fill in the holes and place dog droppings just under the surface:**

Make sure that the droppings are covered with a layer of dirt. This is mainly for dogs that keep returning to the same holes. You may need to persist with this for a while.

### **Place a balloon or water bomb just under the surface of the hole:**

This is not to scare the dog, but just to give him a correction as he disturbs the surface of the hole.

### **For big holes, peg chicken wire deep into the ground:**

If you provide your dog with a sand pit to dig in, then you must be sure that the dog will not eat the sand. Putting some toys in the pit for the dog to bury is also a good option; make sure they are sealed toys that cannot fill up with sand, so that your dog does not accidentally ingest any sand if he chews on them.

### **You may correct your dog if you catch him digging:**

Your Bark Busters trainer will teach you ways in which to correct your dog appropriately so that he will understand that he is making a mistake. Managing the environment and setting the scene to correct your dog is the best way to educate him effectively.

### **Food toys can keep your dog occupied:**

The GameChanger® by Bark Busters provides a safe & fun way to keep your dog busy & happy. Plastic bottles, containers and cooked bones can all splinter and lodge in your dog's gums or digestive tract, making them unsafe as toys to play with.

### **Never use physical correction:**

Physical correction may trigger aggressive behaviour. Showing your dog the hole after the fact has the potential to create other behavioural problems that can escalate quickly into a stressful situation for everyone.

### **Diet is another important factor:**

A healthy, balanced diet can assist in reducing digging, as your dog will be less likely to look for alternative food sources.

This information is brought to you as a public service by Bark Busters Home Dog Training - the world's largest, most-trusted dog training company. Bark Busters is the only international dog training company that offers guaranteed lifetime support. To find out more or to contact your local Behavioral Therapist, please call 1800 067 710 or visit [www.BarkBusters.com.au](http://www.BarkBusters.com.au).

© Who Ya Gonna Call Bark Busters Pty. Ltd.

