

Toys for Bunnies

Why are toys so important for your bunny?

Toys for rabbits?! That's right! Rabbits of all ages and sizes need a variety of safe toys to provide mental stimulation and exercise. Rabbits can be playful, energetic and fun to watch while playing with toys.

- *Toys are entertaining*
Toys help alleviate boredom while your bunny is confined to his cage, and help prevent bunnies from getting into the wrong things while out playing in your house (such as chewing cords, going behind furniture, etc.). Toys can extend your bunny's life by allowing him to constantly learn, explore and grow.
- *Toys provide exercise*
Rabbits need safe activities to keep their bodies and minds healthy. Healthy outlets must be provided to bunnies for indulging their desire and need to chew, dig, climb, fling, hide, hop, and run. Without these outlets, your bunny can become overweight, depressed, or destructive.
- *Toys are a diversion*
Toys can be used to redirect a rabbit from damaging furniture, carpeting, and other household objects that appeal to him. Providing your bunny with a safe, appealing variety of toys is one of the most effective methods of bunny-proofing your home.



How do you keep things interesting?

Keep your bunny amused and entertained by circulating her toys and rearranging them. Put some toys away after a week or two and switch with new ones. Move them around in her cage and she may have a fit of orderliness, busily putting her toys back to where she would like them. Offer toys in different places, stack them, move them around. Have fun and your bunny will, too.

What should you be cautious about?

When trying out new toys for your bunny, be sure she cannot swallow and/or choke on parts of the toy. Beware of rubber items and parts that could fall off, or be chewed off and ingested. Cloth items, such as towels or fabric pieces, could potentially be a danger if your bunny swallows a lot of the threads. Provide plenty of fresh hay and fresh water to keep bunny's GI tract moving steadily, eliminating any ingested cloth or particles. Finally, inspect any chew holes in boxes, etc., to ensure your bunny cannot get his head stuck. He could panic and struggle to free himself, causing injury or strangulation.

What are good bunny toys?

Toys for your bunny do not have to be expensive or even purchased; although there are many fun items you can buy. Listed below are some toy suggestions, all previously tested by bunnies!

Items you may already have around the house

- *Paper bags and cardboard boxes*
These are good for crawling into, scratching, digging, and chewing. It is best to have two or more openings in the bag or box, so your bunny can have an escape route. Also, be sure to remove any labeling, staples, or packaging tape from used cardboard boxes (all of which can be harmful to bunnies).



- *Empty toilet paper and paper towel tubes*
These provide chewing fun, especially when stuffed with yummy grass hay!
- *Phone books*
Yellow or White Pages are great for digging and shredding.
- *Baby toys*
Hard plastic rattles, keys, and rings work well as fling-n-toss toys. Avoid teething toys as the plastic on them is too soft and can be swallowed.



- *Large rubber balls, empty Quaker Oats boxes and small tins*
These items are fun to nudge and roll.
- *Fleece fabrics*
Fleece is used for bunching and rearranging. **Avoid cloth towels as the small strings can create serious health issues.**
- *Metal lids from mayonnaise jars, etc.*
These make lots of noise and are great for tossing and flipping. Be sure to wash thoroughly before giving to your bunny.
- *Untreated wood, twigs, and logs; dried pinecones*
These need to be aged for at least 3 months. Apple tree branches are safe fresh from the tree. **Avoid these tree woods: cherry, peach, apricot, plum and redwood—all of these are poisonous.**
Pinecones must be washed, dried, and left to age for at least 4 months.



Toys you can buy

- *Cardboard concrete forms*
These resemble large paper-towel tubes and can be found at hardware and home supply stores. They are great for burrowing.
- *Untreated wicker baskets*
Bunnies love to chew on them and toss them about. You can often find baskets at craft stores.
- *Cat toys that can be rolled or tossed*
Avoid soft plastic items or ones with small parts that can be ingested. A wire ball with a bell inside is a good choice.
- *Bird toys*
These can be chewed on, tossed, or hung from the top or side.
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Where can you buy good bunny toys?

Searching for bunny toys can be a fun experience. You can always try your local pet store or animal shelters for commercially produced toys. You have only to look in your own home for others—paper tubes and boxes are often plentiful. Listed below are several great websites where rabbit toys can be found. Have fun!

Minnesota Companion Rabbit Society mncompanionrabbit.org

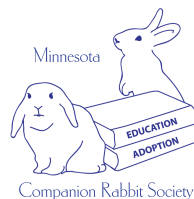
The Bunny Bunch Boutique bunnybunchboutique.com

Bunny Bytes: Outfitters of the Urban Rabbit bunnybytes.com

BunnyLuv: Essentials for Companion Rabbits bunnyluv.com

The Busy Bunny busybunny.com

Toy suppliers for birds exoticcreations.com
greyfeathertoys.com
birdieboutique.com



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The Minnesota Companion Rabbit Society (MCRS) is a volunteer-based, non-profit organization whose primary goals are education and adoption. By educating the public and assisting humane organizations, MCRS works to reduce the number of unwanted rabbits and improve the lives of companion rabbits. Through adoption, MCRS helps rabbits from area shelters and animal control facilities find permanent homes.