

Litterbox Tips

How many litterboxes do you need?

You should always have one more litter box than you have cats. Therefore, a household with one cat should have two litterboxes, and so on. If you have a multiple story home, try to have one on every level of the house.

How big should the litterbox be?

The litterbox should be roomy enough for your cat to turn around in. If the litterbox is too small, your cat simply might not use it and eliminate in inappropriate areas of the house. You may have more of a mess outside of the litterbox than inside with a small box as well simply because your cat is too big and "overshoots" the edge of the box. Buying a litterbox that is too big for your small kitten will also pose a problem if he/she is too small to get into it. If you want to start with a small litterbox for your tiny kitten that is fine, just be sure to invest in a larger box as they grow. Remember this, no matter how big or small your box is, you will still be cleaning litter off the floor. It's part of living the cat life!

To cover or not to cover

There are both open and covered litterboxes. If you use a covered box, make sure your cat can get in and out of it easily. It is best if the box has an overlapping seam so if your cat sprays on the lid it will not leak out. Every cat is going to be different and while some cats might enjoy a closed litterbox, others may feel vulnerable being in an enclosed space. It will take some time and patience to discover the type of litterbox that suits your cat best.

Location, Location, Location!

A cat's litterbox should not be placed next to their food/water, or bed as they do not like to eliminate where they eat and rest. Since cats like their privacy, the litterbox should be placed in a low-traffic area. A corner location is better than the middle of the room. If you have multiple litterboxes in one space, keep enough space between them so that the cat's do not invade each other's space.

What kind of litter and how often do I scoop or change?

There are many types of litter on the market today. Which one you choose depends on taste, both yours and your cats. You can always start with a basic, unscented, clumping litter and progress to other types as your kitten grows and becomes fully litter trained. Some cats are not picky about their litter while others will simply not use it if it not to their liking. It is important to take proper care of the litterbox. Not only will it help keep your home smelling fresh, but it also makes for a more pleasant experience for your cat. The litterbox should be scooped daily to remove all your cat's deposits. Replace the litter as needed when it stops controlling odors. When you replace the litter, you should also be disinfecting the entire litterbox. Avoid using bleach or other harsh chemicals and instead reach for a mild soap and water mixture.