

LITTER BOX TIPS



**Aurora
Animal
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Cats can be very particular about where they eliminate, so it is best to get them started on the right paw. Typically, it is not a one-size-fits-all approach, so sometimes, you will have to change variables to ensure it suits your individual cat. Even in a multi cat household, you can have individual quirks and preferences!

There are several factors you will want to consider. When trying to utilize these tips, be sure to change only one factor at a time. Too much change can be hard on the cat and will not help you identify what the issue was!

LITTER BOX LOCATION

- Ensure litter boxes are kept in quiet areas of the home. If a litter box is kept in a loud or busy area of the home, your cat may begin to urinate or defecate outside of the litter box.
- Private areas of the home with minimal traffic are the best locations for litter boxes. It is not recommended to keep the litter box in the laundry room, due to loud noises the washer and dryer can produce.

NUMBER OF LITTER BOXES

- It is important to have one litter box per cat in your household, plus one extra, per cat. Cats are naturally territorial creatures, so it is important that each cat can have 'their' box. For example, if you had 2 cats, your home should have 3 litterboxes.
- Keep at least one litter box on each level of your home. It can be a little too much to ask for a cat to go up multiple stories every time they have to use the litter box.

TYPE OF LITTER

- Most cats prefer clumping litter that is not scented. Clay litter can be harsh on their paws and is not easy to keep clean. Scented litter can easily deter cats if they feel it has a harsh odor to it.
- Research has shown that dust-free, fine-grained litters are strongly preferred by most cats.



- Some cats prefer to cover their eliminations. Be sure to have enough litter available to them in the box to give them the option to do so. Otherwise, they may try to cover it with other items, like your bathmat!

TYPE OF LITTER BOXES

- Most cats prefer litter boxes that are uncovered. Covered litter boxes trap odors inside and deter the cat from wanting to use it. Since they have a heightened sense of smell, this is important to keep in mind.
- Be aware of physical factors that may deter the cat, such as covered litter boxes with doors. The movement of the door could easily spook the cat.
- Large litter boxes are ideal so that the cat has plenty of room to turn around, scratch and dig comfortably. This is particularly important for our larger or heavy-set kitties!
- Quiet, non-mechanical litter boxes are suggested since noises can easily scare cats and/or deter them from using the litter box. If you decide to use a mechanical litter box, it is recommended to adopt a younger cat or kitten, so they are quickly accustomed and desensitized to it.

CLEANING THE LITTER BOX

- Scooping the litter box daily is important to keep odors down and to ensure the box is clean for your cat to use.
- Each litter box should be completely emptied once a week or every other week. Discard the old litter and replace with fresh.