

LITTERBOXES: Setting Your Cat Up For Success



Litter Type

Most cats prefer fine, sandy litter, and might not like larger textures such as pellets or crystals. Cats also prefer unscented litter, as some scents can be overwhelming to cats and deter them from using the litter box. If you would like to try a different type of litter, offer your cat an extra box with this litter. If your cat uses it as much or more than your current litter, you can transition to this new litter. If not, do not use this new litter.

Litter Box Size and Type

It's important that your litter box matches your cat's needs. For example, young kittens and older cats who have mobility limitations may need a lower entry litter pan. The litter box always be easy for the cat to get into. The ideal size for a litter box is 1.5 times the length of the cat's body. You will likely find that the litter boxes sold in stores are not big enough. Cats also prefer an uncovered litter box so that they can see their surroundings while going to the bathroom. Contrary to popular belief, covered litter boxes do not provide cats with privacy, but rather, block their ability to see what's around them and can make them wary of using the litter box.



Litter Box Location

Litter boxes should be easy to get to. We highly recommend not keeping the litterbox in a basement (especially if it is the only litter box) or using cabinets designed to "hide litter boxes in plain sight". You should have at least one litter box on each floor of a home, even for one cat. Older cats and kittens may need extra litter boxes so they are readily available throughout the home. Kittens have small bladders and cannot wait long when they need to go to the bathroom. Multiple litter boxes will help set them up for success and reinforce proper litter box usage. Similarly, older cats might have trouble walking further distances or climbing stairs to find a litter box.

Litter Box Cleaning

Proper litter box hygiene is important to keep your cats healthy and ensure they use the litter box. Cats are very clean by nature, and will not use a litter box that is overly dirty. We recommend scooping your litter box at least once daily and thoroughly cleaning it out monthly, or as needed depending on the frequency of its use. When cleaning out a litter box, make sure to use a pet safe cleaner with a mild scent like Dawn dish soap and water.

