

General Litter Box Suggestions

Just Cats, Naturally

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- Most cats prefer uncovered litter boxes. Free-roaming/outdoor cats do not seek out covered areas when they urinate or defecate.
- Most cats prefer an unscented, finely textured, clay-based clumping litter. My favorite brand is Dr. Elsey's Precious Cat Scoopable ULTRA litter. Available at PetSmart and PetSage. see www.preciouscat.com for more info. A litter depth of 1 ½-3" is preferred by most cats.
- Scoop boxes 1-2 times daily. Ask yourself: would you step into the box barefoot? If not, why would your cat want to either? Cats are very fastidious creatures. There is no such thing as a box that is too clean.
- Boxes should be dumped periodically, washed with hot water and mild dish soap, and allowed to dry thoroughly (preferably in direct sunlight) before litter is completely replaced. I do not like to use disinfectants or other household cleaners to clean boxes. If a box needs to be "sanitized", use some bleach and hot water to clean, rinsing and drying thoroughly.
- Many big cats just don't "fit" in litter boxes that are commonly sold: consider shopping for an under-the-bed storage box when a really large box is needed.
- For messy cats that like to kick the litter out of the boxes: a high sided storage box, with one side cut down to make an entrance, makes a great litter box. A heated utility knife will cut plastic, but be careful!! This is the litter box that sits in my bathroom:



- Also shown in the above photo, incontinent pads are very useful to place around litter boxes to catch litter, overspill of urine or feces, or when cats sometimes go "near" but not in the box. These are available at drug stores near the Depends undergarments or can be ordered online. I have purchased cases of these pads inexpensively from www.cwimedical.com, and there are many other online sources. Buy the cheapest grade: they work fine!
- A plastic "drip pan" can be purchased from Home-Depot (or similar type stores). This large plastic pan, designed to go under a wash machine, is an inexpensive and useful way to contain/minimize litter box mess. This is one in use in my basement. First photo shows the pan itself and second photo shows it lined with incontinent pads with a box placed in it.



- In general, you should have as many litter boxes as you have cats, possibly PLUS one more. Many cats prefer to urinate in one box and defecate in another, so even single cats may want to have two boxes!
- Litter boxes are not immortal. Replace your litter boxes when they become scratched on the inside or difficult to clean thoroughly.
- Metal litter scoops (or a metal slotted spoon) last much longer than plastic scoops. Keep one near every litterbox area in your house, along with a supply of newspaper or grocery plastic bags to scoop waste into. It is also helpful to have a small "step to open" trashcan, lined with its own bag, nearby to then place the bagged waste into (kind of a kitty "Diaper Genie"). This avoids odors in your regular household trashcans, or having to walk all the way to your main outside trashcan.
- What if you have to clean up an "accident"? The best odor neutralizer on the market, in my opinion, is ANTI ICKY POO. See www.mistermax.com for more information on this product, which is designed to break down biological odors such as urine and feces. They have lots of information on treatment strategies for different surfaces on their website as well. I have tried virtually every product out there, and ANTI ICKY POO does the best job. Their "carpet injector", designed to get into carpet padding, is very useful when dealing with urine on wall-to-wall carpet.