

Litter box training and care



Key Points

- 1 + the number of cats in your house
- Clean everyday
- Use favorite substrate
- Big box

It starts in the beginning

Kittens begin to learn about the litter box at about 3 weeks of age. By 7 weeks of age they will have chosen their favorite substrate for bathroom duties. This is typically something absorbent like clay or newspaper, but sometimes can result in the unpopular choice of towels or bath mats. Kittens do not usually need to be trained to use the litter box but they can become confused if the right substrate is not offered to them at an early age. It can also confuse them if the litter box is

too close to a resting area, or if there are not enough available options.

Placement matters

The rule of thumb when you are setting up the ideal litter box layout is to have one more box than cats in the home. For example, 2 cats equals 3 litter boxes needed to create a stress free environment. These boxes should be quite large as well, a large rubbermaid bin with low sides is ideal. Where these boxes are placed is just as important. Your cat does not want to have to go down the stairs into the dark cold basement everytime he/she needs to eliminate. They want their bathrooms to be easily accessible, clean and in a quiet place.

Cleanliness

Now that you have your extra litter boxes set up with the preferred substrate, and in the right locations, we need to clean them. Cats are very clean animals; think of how many times a day you see your cat grooming itself. They would like you to pay as much attention to their washrooms as they do to their coats. Litter boxes should be scooped out at a minimum of once a day, and litter completely changed once a week. Some cats would even prefer more often. The number of cats in the home will play a factor into how often you need to scoop.

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