Easy-to-Make
Litter Mats

BY KATE BENJAMIN

Litter tracking is one of the most frustrating aspects of living with cats. No matter what kind of litter you use, it always ends up all over the house. Litter mats reduce tracking by trapping loose litter as your cat leaves the box, making cleanup a bit easier.

Carpet tiles

When choosing a litter mat, look for features like durability, how easy it is to clean, texture and size. There are lots of litter mats available to choose from, but you may have trouble finding one that suits your needs, budget and style. Check out these DIY ideas for creating your own custom litter mat from simple, easy-to-find materials that don't cost a fortune.

Ready-to-buy alternatives

Use a **doormat** or a **bath mat**. These options come in every color and style with textures that easily trap litter, and most are easy to clean either in the washing machine or with a hose.

Available in a wide variety of styles, **carpet tiles** are perfect to use around the litter box. They have a rigid backing that prevents the carpet edges from fraying. Cut to size using a utility knife and connect with tape on the underside, customizing the size and pattern to fit your needs.

Click-together **garage floor tiles** are another great alternative. Available in a variety of colors and patterns, these plastic tiles attach to cover any size area. They have an open texture, allowing loose litter to fall through the holes, trapping it below. Simply pick up the tiles and vacuum or sweep underneath periodically.

Do it yourself

Adding a raised edge around your litter mat helps contain loose litter, making it easier to dump particles back into the box. While exploring the home improvement store, I came across a **boot tray** and the **lid** of a plastic storage bin and found they both work well as litter mat trays.

I experimented with different materials that can be easily cut to fit the boot tray or the storage bin lid, adding a texture that helps remove loose litter

Boot tray with sisal rug remnant

and trap it inside the tray. **Yoga mats, sisal rug remnants, artificial turf and outdoor carpet** all make great options. Simply use scissors or a utility knife to cut a piece to fit inside the tray, and add some double-sided tape to hold the material in place as needed.

There are lots of options for creating your own custom litter mat. Experiment with materials and designs until you find something that works for both you and your cat.

Garage floor tiles

Box lid with yoga mat

DIY
wooden litter box deck

Build a custom litter box "deck" for your cat. As your cat walks over the deck, loose litter falls between the wooden slats getting trapped underneath. You can customize the size of the deck to fit your space and your litter box.

Materials and tools:

1 – 6′ 2″ x 2″ wood piece

1 – 6′ 1″ x 3″ wood piece

4 – 2″ wood screws

16 – 1½″ wood screws

Electric drill/driver and saw

Tape measure

Step 1

Cut the wood into the following:

✦ 2″ x 2″ – 2 pieces 18″ long and 2 pieces 8″ long

✦ 1″ x 3″ – 4 pieces 18″ long

Step 2

Make frame with 2″ x 2″ pieces. Pre-drill holes and attach with 2″ wood screws.

Step 3

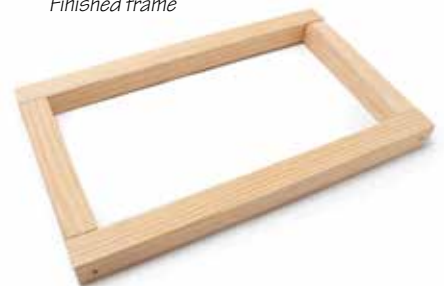Make "deck" with 1″ x 3″ pieces. Pre-drill holes and attach to frame with 1½″ wood screws.

Step 4

Paint or seal the wood for added durability and to make it water resistant.

Kate Benjamin has been writing about feline design since 2007 and is co-author with Jackson Galaxy of two New York Times best-selling books, *Catification* and *Catify to Satisfy*. Get more of Kate's feline design tips at hauspanther.com.

Finished frame

Finished deck