



# Create Good Litter-Box Habits

Kittens instinctively know how to use the litter box, but sometimes they need a little help. Here's how to set up for success.

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**We've got important tips for you on litter-box basics**, including choosing the right box and litter, litter box placement, and how and when to introduce your kitten to the litter box to get the best results. Your new family member will be a pro in no time!

Newborn kittens depend on their mom to stimulate them when it's time to eliminate and clean them up afterward, but once they reach around 4 weeks of age, kittens can start learning about litter boxes. If your new kitten is already weaned, it's time to start litter training.

### Choose the right box

Start training your kitten in a smaller size litter box that's easy for her to climb in and out of. Full-size adult litter boxes may be too large to use easily, preventing kittens from learning the best habits.

Start litter training with an open box. Once your kitten is confident using the litter box, you could try adding a second box with a cover to see if she will use it, but don't force her. You

don't want your cat to feel trapped in the litter box, which can happen with covered boxes.

### Pick the best litter

Experiment to find out which litter your kitten prefers. Cats are naturally drawn to a soft, granular litter that makes it easy to bury waste. However, small kittens can make a big mess, so try a natural pellet litter made from wood or paper that won't scatter as much.

Kittens can be tempted to investigate litter by tasting it, so choose litter free of toxic fragrances or chemicals. Regular clumping litters are safe for older cats, but avoid them with kittens just learning to use the litter box. If consumed, the clumping agents can cause digestive issues.



### Find the right place

The key here is to make it easy for your kitten to find the box. This means placing multiple boxes around the room in easy-to-access locations. Choose an open area where your kitten won't feel trapped but that's also out of the way of busy traffic so she can concentrate on the task at hand. Also reduce clutter, like piles of laundry, around the litter boxes, which your kitten might use instead of the box.

### Introduce kitten to the box

As soon as the litter boxes are set up, introduce your kitten by showing her each box so she can sniff them. If she doesn't go in the box on her own, gently place her in the box and demonstrate digging by moving your fingers through the clean litter. →

## Dig this!

Get a kitten-sized litter box for ultimate success. Look for a box or pan that:

- ❖ is one-and-a-half times as long as your kitten
- ❖ has low sides
- ❖ is 2 or 3 inches tall — just enough height to contain the litter while allowing your kitten easy access

Can't find a kitten-sized litter box? Check the kitchen section for a small plastic dishpan or foil roasting pan.





If she doesn't start using the boxes on her own, place her in one of the boxes after she eats, drinks or wakes from a nap to get her used to it. Use only positive reinforcement by praising your kitten when she uses the box — never punish her if she goes outside the box.

### Keep it clean

Scoop the box each time your kitten uses it. When your kitten becomes an adult, scoop the box several times a day (depending on the amount of cats you have). This prevents her from avoiding the box because it's dirty.

Clean the entire litter box out — dumping all litter and washing the box — once a week. Refill with clean litter after each cleaning to maintain the appropriate level of litter. (This can vary if you have a multi-cat household.)

Tap into these tips to get your new kitten mastering good litter-box habits to last a lifetime! 🐾

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## LITTER BOX READY

These products are purrfect for a kitten who's new to using the litter box.



\$31.99.  
**Kitty Go Here Litter Pan;**  
[chewy.com](http://chewy.com)



\$16.99. **Dr. Elsey's Kitten Attract;**  
[chewy.com](http://chewy.com)



\$19 (10-pound bag with subscription).  
**Catalyst Unscented Litter;**  
[catalystpet.com](http://catalystpet.com)

## Set Yourself Up for Success, Too!

Don't forget that you are part of the litter-box process, too! Keep all your litter scooping and cleaning supplies organized and close at hand.



You'll need clean litter, a scoop, trash bags, a broom and dustpan, and other cleaning supplies.

Set up a storage area close to the litter box, making it easy for you to scoop and clean so kitty always has a fresh box, and you don't have to live with a mess.

