



# Litterbox Set Up Tips

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## **Litter:**

- Use a fine-grained material that feels soft to their feet (most clumping litters)
- Use at least 1.5 to 2 inches deep of litter in the box
- Unscented litters are best, fragrance doesn't necessarily mask odors and can be irritating to the cat's nose and paws
- Watch corn based litter if you have dogs in the home, this can actually be an attractive scent for the canine and they can ingest the litter causing blockage

## **Litterbox:**

- Larger litter boxes are now recommended: you can even use an under-the-bed storage container as a litter box; Remember, the cat needs to be able to maneuver around the edges of the box, they don't necessarily sit *in* the box to eliminate
- Match the box to the cat:
  - Larger cats need a larger box to enable them more room to urinate/defecate
  - Kittens, elderly, and ill cats need a box with lower sides so they can easily enter them
- To ensure cats don't seek other places to eliminate, use one more box than there are cats
  - For 2 cats, have 3 boxes; 4 cats, 5; etc.

## **Location:**

- Avoid high-traffic areas and areas that are really out-of-the-way
- Avoid areas where the cat can be "ambushed"
  - Pick an area where the cat can see in many directions at once and where the cat has more than one exit route
- Don't place multiple boxes next to each other; Place boxes in multiple areas of the house
- Avoid placing box next to anything noisy such as appliances, garages, and children's play areas

## **Cleanliness:**

- Feces and clumps should be scooped daily
- Wash the box with an unscented soap or disinfectant (not bleach or ammonia) once a week
- No odor should be detectable from the box
- Some cats won't tolerate liners, the noise and texture can put them off using box