Litter Box Selection Guide

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And how to get your cat to use it

The perfect litter box would be invisible. Your cat would disappear into it, then reappear, perfectly clean and content. There would be no odor. No litter to freshen or replace. In fact, no maintenance of any kind, ever.

In recent years, great strides have been made toward creating the perfect litter box:

SIZE: Litter boxes are made in a variety of space-saving shapes to minimize their presence, but research shows, and most cat owners will agree on, one thing: the larger the box the better. Our Jumbo Open Litter Pan is our largest non-mechanical litter box.

COLORS: Litter boxes come in choices of decorator colors, or soft earth tones so they blend in with your décor. The discreet, attractive design of the rattan litter box cover looks great in any room.

HOODS: Hooded litter boxes afford your cat privacy, help prevent the accidental spread of waste and urine, and help control odor. For example, the Jumbo Hi-Back Litter Pan has an integrated zeolite filter to capture odors.

CLEANING: Built-in cleaning mechanisms, both manual and automatic, make waste removal easier and extend the life of litter. The Nature's Miracle® Self-Cleaning Litter Boxes actually cleans itself and deposits the waste in a disposable container that you remove, empty, and rinse. It's a healthy alternative that minimizes handling.

LITTER: New varieties of litter, which come in a range of textures and materials, and litter odor treatments, are earning cat approval in homes across the country. World's Best Cat Litter, for instance, is made from biodegradable corn. It absorbs and binds odor-causing matter and is safe for cats and humans. These corn granules are easier on your pet's paws, won't stick to the litter box, and produce less dust than clay litter.

ODOR CONTROL: Effective odor control products can create barriers to prevent the growth of odor in the litter box, and even draw pungent odors from the air around it. Stink Free Spray helps destroy offensive litter box smells with a convenient spray.

You can lead a cat to the perfect litter box, but can you make her use it?

Even provided the perfect litter box, your cat, or cats, might prove to be fussy about its use. You need to select a size and style she will use today. And you need to be flexible should she change her mind tomorrow. As your cat goes through the stages of her life, her preferences, as well as her ability to use the litter box, may also change.

STYLES: You may need to experiment with litter box styles. Before giving up on any litter box, however, understand that it might not be the box that is the problem. Be sure you have first tried a number of litter types at a number of depths, and whichever you use, always keep it clean.

NUMBER: Seldom will one litter box suffice. It is always a good idea to have at least two in service. It is far less likely your cat will find a reason to reject both. A good rule of thumb is to maintain at least one litter box for each cat, and at least one additional litter box than the total number of cats in your household.

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LOCATION: Box location is critical. It needs to be in a quiet area, always a good distance from her food and water.

PRIVACY: Whatever style litter box you choose, make sure it affords your cat privacy. If you use a pan-style rather than a covered box, hide it with a privacy screen.

AGE: If your cat suffers from urinary disease, or is older, she will likely need a litter box she can enter and leave more easily. Climbing of any kind can become painful, forcing her to go outside the box.

Give yourself, and your cat, a break and investigate the more convenient, more hygienic options now available.

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