

Avoiding house soiling by cats

Jacqueline C. Neilson



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There are some practical steps that you can take to help stop your cat soiling your house.

Reduce the attractiveness or accessibility of targeted places

- Reducing attractiveness includes tactics such as placing aluminium foil, upside-down carpet runners, double-sided sticky tape or citrus scents at previously targeted spots.
- Reducing accessibility may include removing targeted items from the environment or segregating the cat away from target items or locations.

Litterboxes (litter trays)

- Most cats prefer large uncovered boxes with 5–7.5 cm (2–3 inches) of clumping litter (fine sand-like consistency) in an accessible yet quiet location.
- Special consideration for easily accessible box locations may be necessary for young kittens or geriatric cats.
- In multi-cat homes litterboxes should be distributed throughout the environment to allow all household cats easy undisturbed access.
- In multi-level homes there should be a litterbox on every floor.

Identify your cat's preferred litterbox

- In addition to the current litterbox, offer several other litterboxes of different styles, with different litter types and depths, to determine your cat's preferences. Retain the litterboxes with preferential usage.

Maintain exceptional litterbox hygiene

- Scoop boxes daily.
- Completely change the litter and wash the box every 1–4 weeks.
- Replace extremely soiled boxes periodically.

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Address any underlying social issues

These might be: intercat aggression or a fear of visitors that limits access to the litterbox.

Cleaning

Clean any soiled areas with an enzymatic cleanser.