



CITY KITTY

Four Tips for Fresh Cat Boxes

Say goodbye to Smelly Cat with these cat litterbox solutions.

By Kristina Lotz
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You see it every time you invite your friends over for dinner. They look at each other furtively and then quickly suggest you go out instead. Your boyfriend insists on always going to his house, claiming his TV is nicer. Deep down, you know the real culprit: [cat litterbox odor](#).

They're not cat people, you try to justify to yourself. But, look: Even if someone is a cat person, they don't want to visit a cat outhouse! There is

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nothing worse than having a freshly baked cake on the counter, and all you smell is your cat. Try these simple tips to control the odor and regain your sense of dignity, before the boyfriend finds a girl who's allergic to [cats](#).

Tip 1: The Box

Covered boxes keep the odor contained. I personally like top-entry litterboxes because they help reduce the amount of cat litter that gets spread everywhere, control odor and keep my dog from eating at the kitty buffet. Both of my cats were older rescues when I got them, so I believe any cat can learn how to use one of these litterboxes.

Sara from the Irvine Animal Care Center, an animal shelter in Irvine, Calif., recommends scooping the litterbox once or twice a day, to really keep odor down. Every couple of weeks, completely scrub the litterbox to keep the container from absorbing odors and to kill germs.

Tip 2: Location

How many evenings have you had ruined because there you are, sitting on the couch cuddling with your honey, who suddenly sees (and smells) the [cat box](#) sitting right next to the couch? Talk about a mood killer!

Nowadays, you can find all kinds of mod-type boxes as well as [cat litterbox](#) hidiers that conceal the box inside a cabinet, side table, etc. As a bonus, these help contain [litterbox odor](#). Regardless of the box, a well ventilated area also helps prevent lingering cat odors.

Tip 3: The Litter

Think of litter as your cat's toilet paper. If it doesn't have the right texture and absorbency, it won't do its job.

What type of cat litter does your cat prefer?



What's causing that smell? Cover your litterbox or find a furniture concealer for the cat box to tuck into.

Among CatChannel.com visitors, clumping cat litter reigns.

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Sara puts baking soda in her cats' boxes for extra odor control. Janene adds, "I have found that crumbling activated charcoal (found in the aquarium section of a pet store) into the litter is effective at reducing strong ammonia odors."

Sara reminds us to change cat litter slowly, by mixing your kitty's current litter with the new, just as you would their food, in order to avoid your cats' refusing to use the litterbox.

Tip 4: Diet

What goes in must go out, right? So it only stands to reason that if you are feeding your cat junk, junk will come out. Compare it to you eating four corn dogs at the fair. Not pleasant! The better the diet, the less waste and odor your cat will make. Less waste means less clean-up and less litter, so that's an added perk. In addition, better food means you cat's health be better and she will need less trips the cat vet. Clearly, better food more than pays for itself over time.

If you follow these tips, you will be able to have your cake with friends, and smell it too.