

## Cat Litter Options For Your Pet

House training seems to be a major reason many people hesitate to get a family pet. Cats however rarely need much training. Just buy a litter box, add some cat litter, and oftentimes that's all that is needed.

Many kittens are already litter trained by their mother so there's really not much for you to do. Once you are sure he knows where the box is, you rarely need to worry about him going someplace else. But you will have to make a decision, and that is deciding what type of litter will work best.

There are an increasing number of options available, so it's good to know a bit about each type before you run out and buy a bag.

One factor you'll need to look at is the price. This is where clay litter has a big advantage. Clay was one of the first litters developed commercially and is less expensive than most of the others. The problem with clay is that it not only absorbs liquids, it also hangs on tightly to most odors. You'll need to change it frequently or the smell will permeate your home. Clay is also problematic if your cat has allergies because when he scratches in the box the dust will start to fly.

Clumping cat litter has replaced basic clay as the litter of choice for most pet owners. As soon as your cat goes, the litter works with the moisture in the waste and forms large clumps. That means all you need to do is scoop out the clumps, there's no need to change the entire box. Then just put in more litter to replace what you just scooped. Clumping litter also comes with various scents to help hide the smell. So what are the drawbacks? Well some cats will eat the clumped waste. Watch your kitten to make certain this is not a problem.

Silica litters are great at controlling both odor and moisture by using silica crystals mixed with water and sand. Silica is the same substance used in those small packets placed in pill bottles or new shoes. Those packets are there to absorb moisture, and they work just as well in cat litter. You still have to scoop out the solid waste, but the liquid and odors are absorbed by the crystals. Another positive attribute is that this litter is biodegradable. When it decomposes it simply returns to a sandy base. On the down side, it does not clump, so scooping the solid waste can be messy.

Paper litter is also becoming more popular, especially among those concerned with the environment. It is made from recycled paper or pellets. It's very absorbent, weighs very little, and of course, is also biodegradable.

Wood litters, in particular pine cat litter, are also biodegradable and quickly growing in popularity. Softwoods are great at absorbing liquids and odors. No chemicals are needed to help with the process meaning you get a more natural litter.

Once you decide on the type of litter you want to use, your cat will undoubtedly let you know if he agrees with your selection. Some cats for example don't like the smell of pine litter. Others won't use silica because the crystals don't feel good on their paws. In either case, your cat will tell you whether or not he approves by either going or not going in his box.

There are other litter options available as well. And with so many choices now, it's important to know the the good points and bad points of each one before you head to the store.

## About the Author

For more facts on these and other [cat litter](#) choices go to [CatLitterBoxesPlus.com](#). You'll also read about various litter boxes including the [automatic cat litter box](#) that makes clean up a breeze.

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