

CHOOSING AN APPROPRIATE LITTER

Why is Litter Important?



All cats, even outdoor cats, should have access to a litter tray at all times. It is important to your cat that the type of litter offered for the tray encourages them to use it. Some cats aren't fussy, and will use whatever you offer them. For others, the wrong type of litter can lead to them toileting in areas you'd rather they didn't! (See Inappropriate Toileting Fact Sheet for more information).

There are many types of litter available. Here are just some of them:

- **Diatomite** - this is a fossil litter; cheap, high absorbency, moderate odour control.
 - *Cat rating: Acceptable, but leaves dusty residue on fur.*
- **Lucerne pellets** - fragrant, moderately absorbent, 100% biodegradable.
 - *Cat rating: Acceptable, but some don't like the smell, or the feel of the pellets beneath their paws.*
- **Recycled paper pellets** - environmentally friendly, cheap and readily available. Moderately absorbent compared to other types, moderate odour control.
 - *Cat rating: Acceptable, but some don't like the feel.*
- **Recycled paper clumps** - inexpensive, 100% biodegradable. More absorbent than the pelleted variety, but will hold less liquid.
 - *Cat rating: Acceptable by most*
- **Shredded paper** - cheap, environmentally friendly, must be changed after EVERY use.
 - *Cat rating: Acceptable, but not preferred*
- **Grain based litter** - effective, inexpensive, environmentally friendly, absorbent and has moderate odour control.
 - *Cat rating: Usually Acceptable*
- **Crystals** - Highly absorbent, excellent odour control, owner-friendly. Non-biodegradable.
 - *Cat rating: Not every cat will use it.*
- **Sand** - Highly absorbent, good odour control
 - *Cat rating: one of the most popular choices of litter by cats. Ask any builder!*

It is usually recommended to begin by offering the same litter the cat or kitten has already been using. If this is unknown you can choose one that suits your lifestyle and budget.

If your cat is already having toileting problems, or seems reluctant to use a tray when one is offered, try going back to basics: most cats will still prefer a sandy litter.

