

# Preparing for Bringing Your Kitten Home



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You will need to have the following items on hand before bringing home your new kitten:

**1. A litter box that is not too deep and difficult for your new kitten to climb into and litter for the litter box.** You might be surprised at how picky some kittens can be. Some cats prefer the very finely grained litter, and some prefer the coarser types. Don't give up if your kitten does not seem pleased at first; he will definitely let you know when you have hit upon the right mixture. (Take the advice of the breeder in order to know what the kitten is used to.)

**2. Scratching Posts (or some type of cat furniture)!** They are invaluable in training your kitten to avoid harming your furniture. Scratching their claws is a healthy, natural instinct for a kitten and a cat, and providing them with the right place to do that will keep you both happy. Be aware that some cats prefer rough surfaces like sisal rope... others go crazy for plain old carpet.

**3. Grooming tools suitable for the breed of your kitten: such as a brush and comb for a longhaired kitten/cat, or flea comb or special brush for shorthaired cats.** You'll also need clippers for their nails, not the "human" kind of scissors. Get the clippers made especially for cats, which you can find in quality pet stores. Trimming the kitten's nails should be a straightforward fact of life and you certainly don't want to hurt the kitten by cutting into the "quick" or splitting the nails.

**4. Certain types of plastic, wood, and even some types of ceramic bowls may contain tiny cracks that can harbor potentially harmful bacteria.** Most professionals recommend using glass and stainless steel food and water bowls, and cleaning them regularly.

**5. Providing kittens with suitable toys helps to ensure they fulfill their need of playing.** Be careful to avoid toys with small strings or beads that can be swallowed and stuck in the kitten's throat or intestinal tract. You should never play with the kitten with your hands because the kitten will then learn to bite/scratch your hands. Always use toys to play and if the kitten tries to bite/scratch you, immediately redirect with a toy.

**6. You'll need to have a carrier for the safety of traveling with your kitten, and trips to the vet.** The carrier should be large enough for the kitten to stand up in and turn around. Choose a sturdy carrier with plenty of ventilation that will still allow your kitten to stand up and turn around in when he or she is fully grown.

**7. Have the right, nutritious food on hand.** Changes in diet and water, even litter and environment, can cause minor diarrhea and other problems.

**8. A nice cozy bed is a great idea for the new member of the family.** Your kitten will soon know that this is his/her special place. Choose a bed that is well constructed and machine washable.

