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GUIDELINES FOR CLEANING THE LITTER PAN

When our lives get hectic and demands for our time increase, sometimes we let routine chores lapse. Your cat is pretty fastidious about its potty habits, so litter pan care is one job not to forget.

You should have one litter pan per cat. Many of you will balk at this, but please use as many as you can. You really need two pans for two or more cats. If you use clay litter, the pans should be totally changed at least once a week. If you have a hooded litter pan, change it every few days. The ammonia odor is trapped in these pans and can really be aversive. You should scoop the solid waste daily or every other day as your cats comfort level with poop in the box dictates. Some of these critters have very little tolerance for the stuff.

If you are using the new types of scooping litter, you must scoop it daily or even twice a day. If you don't, the clumps of urine will break up as the cat dances around the box to make that perfect little place in which to deposit the you know what. The ammonia odor seems to accumulate much worse with clumping litter that is not cleaned properly as well. That lady on the litter pan commercial that says she couldn't bear to scoop her pan but once a week had a very unhappy cat. And we all know that you can only push a cat so far in its litter pan happiness quotient before it happily potties on another surface.

Generally, you should totally change scooping litter once a month. Do it more frequently if you feel that the litter has lots of little clumps and smells. Cheap scooping litter doesn't keep as clean as the more expensive brands. Sad, but true. Remember that poorly maintained scooping litter may push the cat's limits more than clay litter.