

## **Paper Litter**

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Your veterinarian may recommend paper litter after a surgery (for example, neutering or spaying) or an injury, especially to your cat's paws, urinary tract, or abdomen. Some regular litters can get tangled into wounds, stitches, or bandages, and can irritate or even cause an infection at the surgery site. Paper litter for a few weeks after surgery helps avoid these problems, and may be more comfortable for your cat to use.

Choose an unscented paper litter, particularly if your cat's current litter is unscented. Most cats prefer unscented to scented litter, and you want to avoid having a litter box your cat doesn't want to use! To use paper litter, start with a clean litter box. First, empty the litter from your cat's litter box, then clean the box with warm water and mild unscented soap, and let it dry completely. Put the paper litter into the clean box to the level your cat is accustomed to. You can put a cat litter pad into the box before adding the paper litter to make the litter more absorbable.

Clean your litter box as often as possible. Remove any waste as soon as possible after it is deposited to help keep the surgery site clean. You can discard used litter in a safe refuse container like you use for your regular litter. Keep using the paper litter until your veterinarian tells you that your cat has healed enough so that you can return to your regular litter, this usually takes at least 2-3 weeks.