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Litter Box Setup Checklist

A practical setup for less tracking and a box your cat will actually use.

Work down the list at your own pace. Change one thing at a time, and if your cat stops using the box, switch back and try again more slowly.

How many, and how big

- [ ] One box per cat, plus one extra (the usual guideline).
- [ ] Box interior about 1½× your cat's length, with room to turn around.

Where to put it

- [ ] A quiet, low-traffic spot that is still easy to reach.
- [ ] Away from food and water bowls.
- [ ] On a hard floor with a clear walk-off path — not a tight closet that forces a leap, and not on a furnace vent.
- [ ] If it has to sit on carpet, put a large waterproof mat under and around it.

The box and the litter

- [ ] High sides if your cat flings litter while burying.
- [ ] Skip top-entry boxes for kittens, seniors, and cats that have trouble jumping.
- [ ] Fill litter about 2–3 inches (follow the bag; some clay lists 3–4 inches). Don't pile it above the lip.

The mat

- [ ] Place a mat at the exit, long enough for two or three steps (about 30–36 inches for a standard box).
- [ ] Length beats width. For top-entry or high-sided boxes, put the mat where the cat lands.
- [ ] Empty the mat every day or two, and pour dry, clean litter back into the box.

Tracking control

- [ ] If tracking is the main complaint, try larger pellets or medium-grain clay (tofu, wood or pine pellets, or medium-grain clumping clay).
- [ ] Unscented is the safer default.
- [ ] Scoop clumps daily, and sweep or vacuum the landing zone.
- [ ] Change one thing at a time, and mix a new litter with the old one over several days.

Free printable for personal use. Print at 100% on US Letter. Follow the litter bag, and go slowly with changes.