

New Kitten Checklist

A new kitten checklist for bringing home a kitten, covering the first day and week of supplies, vet care, litter setup, and kitten-proofing.

Kitten supplies to buy first

- ☐ Pick up kitten food and shallow food and water bowls.
- ☐ Get a litter box and kitten-safe, low-dust litter.
- ☐ Buy a secure carrier for vet trips and travel.
- ☐ Provide a soft bed and a sturdy scratching post.
- ☐ Choose safe toys for play and pounce practice.
- ☐ Add grooming basics like a soft brush and nail clippers.

Kitten-proofing the home

- ☐ Remove toxic plants, foods, and household chemicals.
- ☐ Secure cords, blind strings, and small swallowable items.
- ☐ Close off unsafe gaps, balconies, and tilting windows.
- ☐ Tuck away anything fragile a curious kitten could knock over.
- ☐ Check washers, dryers, and recliners before use.
- ☐ Set up a quiet safe room for the first days.

Litter box setup

- ☐ Choose a low-sided box a small kitten can step into.
Place it away from food and water in a quiet spot.
- ☐ Fill with a kitten-safe, unscented litter.
- ☐ Show your kitten the box soon after arrival.
- ☐ Scoop daily and keep the box clean to encourage good habits.
- ☐ Add a second box if you have a larger home or multiple cats.
- ☐ Gently place your kitten in the box after meals and naps at first.

First vet visit

- ☐ Schedule a wellness exam within the first few days home.
- ☐ Bring any records and a stool sample if requested.
- ☐ Ask about the kitten vaccination schedule and timing.
- ☐ Discuss deworming and flea prevention for kittens.
- ☐ Confirm the right food and feeding amounts for your kitten's age.
- ☐ Ask when to plan spay or neuter and microchipping.

First-week routine

- ☐ Start your kitten in one safe room before opening the house.
- ☐ Feed small, frequent meals at consistent times.
- ☐ Balance gentle play with plenty of naps.
- ☐ Handle your kitten softly and briefly to build trust.
- ☐ Keep introductions to people and pets calm and gradual.
- ☐ Provide a warm, quiet place to sleep.

Health and safety basics

- ☐ Watch appetite, energy, and litter habits for any changes.
- ☐ Keep your kitten warm, hydrated, and rested.
- ☐ Limit exposure to unknown cats until vaccinations are underway.
- ☐ Handle paws and mouth gently to ease future grooming and care.
- ☐ Save your vet and nearest emergency clinic numbers.
- ☐ Important: This is general information, not veterinary advice. Always consult a veterinarian about your kitten's vaccinations, diet, and health.