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.