

Cat Enclosure Spot Cleaning

General Sanitation Practices

- Prior to performing cleaning of cat enclosures, cats should be observed for changes in physical and behavioral health and findings documented as appropriate.
- Individuals performing sanitation should wear appropriate, clean, protective outerwear and care should be taken to properly [don and doff attire](#).
- Each animal housing area should have designated, labeled cleaning equipment for use exclusively in that area. Such equipment should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after use.
- In most situations, and especially for cats that are mildly ill, anxious, fearful, or stressed, spot cleaning is the preferred method for daily care.



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Indications for Sanitation

- Daily when cat will be remaining in the same enclosure
- When the enclosure is lightly soiled
- When the occupant(s) is generally healthy
- **Spot cleaning is generally preferred for cats with URI and ringworm.**

Supplies

- Gloves
- Detergent solution
- Spray bottle
- Clean rags/paper towels
- Dustpan
- Trash can
- Laundry bag/basket
- Clean enclosure supplies

Step-by-Step

1. Leave occupant in place or gently encourage them to move to the opposite side of the enclosure when available. *Animals who display aggression or fear towards people must be securely in the opposite side of double compartment housing or a hiding area (such as a feral den) during cleaning.*
2. Remove food and water bowls from enclosure and place aside. Shake out bedding into trash as needed.
3. Remove soiled linens or objects and brush any loose debris into a dustpan.
4. Scoop or dispose of litter box(es) as needed.
5. Inspect cage walls and furnishings for lightly soiled areas. If found, apply detergent solution to clean rag or paper towel and wipe soiled areas until visibly clean and dry. Replace soiled items with clean ones.
6. After performing hand sanitation or changing gloves, refresh food and water bowls as needed and return them to the enclosure.
7. Ensure occupant(s) has/have full access to enclosure.
8. Clean and disinfect any equipment prior to using in another enclosure.