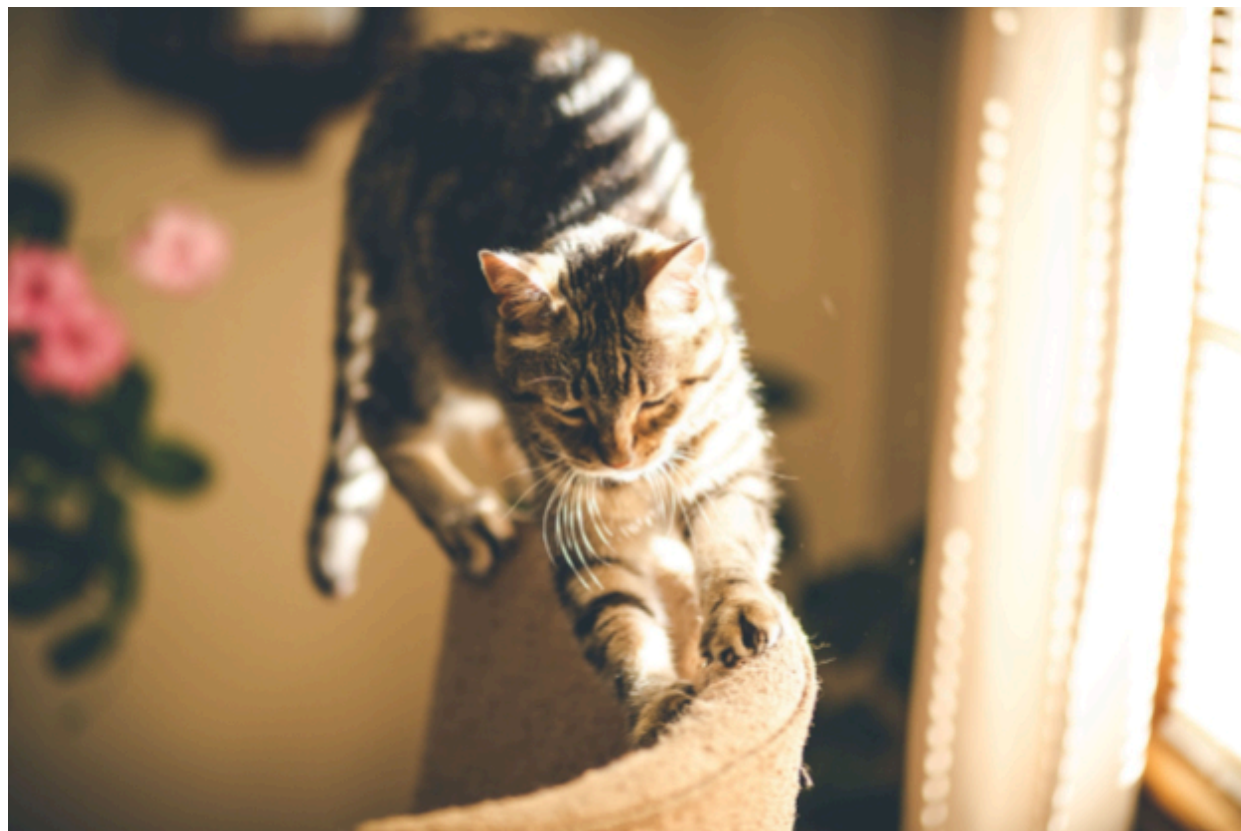


How to Stop Your Cat from Ruining Your Furniture



No cat owner has all five: litter-free floors, unblemished carpet, unchewed power cords, fur-free clothes, and pristine furniture. If you've ever cohabitated with a cat, you're probably familiar with the havoc they tend to wreak on furniture. We know it's annoying, and it can be tempting to try to stop your cat from scratching altogether through punishments or, worst of all, declawing. However, these tactics are doomed to fail or cause your cat considerable distress, as cats have a physiological and psychological need to scratch. So, what do you do? Keep reading to find out how to stop your cat from ruining your furniture – the right way!

Why do Cats Scratch?

Though the instinct to scratch has exasperated cat owners since the beginning of time, there are plenty of reasons behind cats' scratching behaviors. In fact, regular claw sharpening is beneficial to your cat's physical and mental health. Here are some of the reasons why your cats like to destroy your furniture:

1. To Maintain Claw Health

If you've ever found the shell of your cat's claw on the floor, don't panic! It's perfectly normal for cats' claws to shed, kind of like a snake's skin. Scratching on firm surfaces can help your cat to shed these old layers and reveal the shiny new claws underneath.

2. To Stretch

When your cat scratches on the side of your sofa, they aren't just sharpening their claws. Cats like to use their claws to hang onto upright surfaces and stretch out their little muscles. This allows your cat to release tension after a stressful day of laying around, sleeping, and not paying any rent.



Cats scratch to stretch and relieve stress

3. To Relieve Stress

Speaking of cats' highly stressful lives, scratching can also be a great source of stress relief. When cats stretch and scratch on furniture, it relieves tension. This helps to mitigate any anxiety that might lead to bad behaviors, like defecating or spraying around the house.

4. To Mark their Territory

Did you know that cats' paws have a hidden ability? Your cat is smuggling scent glands between their little toe beans, and when they scratch on items, these glands release odors that contain their scent. So, next time you catch your cat scratching up your

favorite purse, maybe consider that they are merely making sure other cats know you're *their* human when you go out into the world.

Don't Stop Scratching, Redirect it

We've established that your cat doesn't just *want* to scratch – they *need* to scratch. So, how do you save your furniture without depriving your cat of the ability to meet their physiological needs? The answer isn't to stop your cat's scratching behaviors, but instead to redirect them onto acceptable surfaces.

1. Get a Scratching Post ASAP

Your cat needs to scratch something other than your couch, but if they don't have an alternative surface, how are they going to meet their need to scratch? This is where scratching posts, cat trees, and cat condos come in. On top of being cute ways to tell guests "I'm a crazy cat person," these can give your cats a place to hang out, play, and scratch. These are also great for multi-cat households, where cat furniture can provide a common marking spot.



Scratching posts give your cat a safe alternative to scratch on

The type of scratching post you get also matters. As a rule of thumb, steer clear of any carpet-covered cat furniture. Your cat may struggle to understand why it can't scratch on your actual carpet if it can scratch on the carpet-covered furniture. Make sure that whatever you get is sturdy and tall enough to allow a full-body stretch.

As for the specific piece of furniture you choose, it should be tailored to your cat's individual preferences. For instance, carpet-lovers might prefer a horizontal scratcher placed on the floor.

2. Make Human Furniture Unappealing

The next step is to make it difficult or unpleasant for your cat to scratch on your couch, bed, carpet, or any of their other favorite spots. You can do this by covering the spots they usually scratch with sheets, plastic, double-sided tape, or sandpaper. You can also place a vinyl carpet runner, spiky side up, on the floor next to where your cat likes to

scratch, which will make them avoid that spot. If none of this works, or you don't want to cover your furniture in unsightly materials, you can also spray your cat's favorite spots with citrus, a scent that most cats will avoid.

3. Encourage Cats to Use Their Own Furniture

Encourage your cat to use their brand-new kitty furniture by spraying it with catnip, which most cats will find irresistible (pro tip: if your cat doesn't like catnip, they might not have the gene that makes catnip appealing. Try valerian root instead). Be sure to drape their favorite toys over their scratchers to encourage them to use them, and place cat furniture in close proximity to the places they usually scratch so that they have an "allowed" alternative.



Positive reinforcement can be used to encourage your cat to use their own furniture instead of yours

Another great tool in your arsenal is positive reinforcement. Praise your cat with treats and affection when they use their new furniture, being sure to use their name frequently. On the flip side, make sure to never use your cat's name when correcting them. Make sure you only use your cat's name when reinforcing good behaviors, not correcting bad ones, that way their name is only associated with praise.

By following these steps, you can stop your cat from ruining your human furniture, and you'll get to enrich your home and your cat's life with some cat furniture. If you're wondering where to start on your search for quality cat furniture, look no further! With more than 20 years of experience in the pet supply industry, our team at Catry believes in giving animals a better life through human contributions. Check out our [website](#) to see all the cat furniture we have to offer or [contact us](#) to find out how we can help you to enrich your cat's life.