



Kitten Tutor™: Deep Cleaning Your Kitten Space

A couple of years ago we ran an article about what you can do while waiting for kitten season to begin: a good deep clean of your kitten-care space. In advance of this year's kitten invasion – and because one can never clean too much! -- we thought it would be useful to repeat the advice in that earlier article.

Here's a handy summary *To Do* list to ready your home for new kittens!

- Start by washing with soap or detergent. Then, disinfect to kill those nasty viruses that can survive even the toughest scrubbing with regular cleaning products. You'll want to have on hand a shelter- or hospital-grade disinfectant and carefully follow product directions for contact time and rinsing if needed.
- Wash and disinfect all the towels, sheets and blankets you use in your kitten care area. Organize them by type and size, place them in clear plastic bags (so you know later they have been cleaned and disinfected) and store in an area away from animals and possible contaminants.
- Collect all the utensils, dishes, bottles, and other food-related items and wash them thoroughly using your favorite cleaning product. Then, disinfect via product, boiling, autoclave, etc. If using disinfecting product, be sure it is safe for food items and also be sure to rinse very well as required.
- Scrub or discard litter boxes and scoops. Remember, you should never use the same scoop between cages or rooms. Same thing goes for brooms, mops, sponges, brushes, etc.
- Wash the cages, carriers, plastic bins, and other "containers" you use to house your kittens. If possible, completely submerge them in disinfecting solution rather than merely wiping or spraying it on the items. This helps ensure that nothing can "hide" in the corners, nooks and crannies. Don't forget to rinse as needed. Then store appropriately away from animals or in more clear plastic bags.
- Is your room empty now of all the items above? Removing as much as possible from the room is a bit of work, but it will make washing the windows, light fixtures, ventilation grates, non-porous walls, door knobs, light switches and anything else "attached" to the room a bit easier. Then, give the floors another once-over to get all that might have floated down and landed there.
- Take a supply inventory, check expiration dates, and reorder needed items to be ready for the Proper cleaning and sanitation are essential for keeping kittens healthy and saving lives. Diseases lurk everywhere and spread quickly, so continue to make sanitation a priority all year long, and a Special Project for down time, whenever you have it. And, remember, kittens get into everything! Keep them safe by removing them from the area when cleaning and by using and storing cleaning supplies properly.