



## Tips for keeping cats out of your yard

Knowing that cats can sometimes become a nuisance for neighbors who may not want them in their yard, here is a list of products and techniques that can help keep cats out of your yard. When neighbors work together, TNR works!

### Scent repellants

We don't recommend using any chemically-based scent repellants which often have the active ingredient methyl nonyl ketone. Despite manufacturers' claims that the ingredient is safe, the same folks acknowledge the chemical is poisonous and should not be applied to food crops. Here's a list of naturally-based products:

- The border plant Coleus-Canina is now being marketed as an effective scent deterrent for dogs and cats by Gardener's Supply. Contact: [www.gardeners.com](http://www.gardeners.com) or call 1-888-833-1412.
- For protecting gardens or flower beds, the herb rue is often mentioned as a good deterrent, either planted or sprinkled in its dry form. Other suggested items for garden areas include orange and lemon peels (cats dislike citrus smells), cayenne pepper, coffee grounds, pipe tobacco, lavender oil, lemon grass oil, citronella oil, peppermint oil, eucalyptus oil, and mustard oil.
- Repellant Evaporators use puffed rice treated with oils to keep a constant odor emanating around the garden for three to four weeks, then can be refilled. Contact: [www.gardeners.com](http://www.gardeners.com) or call 1-888-833-1412.
- Havahart's Cat Repellent Model 5400/5401 uses capsaicin pepper and oil of mustard as its active ingredients. It repels by both taste and odor and has a lemon scent not offensive to humans. It lasts 7-10 days and needs to be reapplied after rain or new growth. Repellants should be sprayed around the edges of the yard, the top of fences and on any favorite digging areas or plants. Call 1-800-800-1819.

### Ultrasonic devices

These devices emit a high frequency sound annoying to cats and not perceptible by people. The key to their effectiveness is matching the capacity of the device to the size of the area to be covered. A device not powerful enough for too large an area won't work.

*See page 2 for more instructions.*

# How to keep cats out of your yard.

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Yard Control Dog and Cat Repeller, Model P7810 - Unlike most ultrasonic devices which emit a constant sound, this one only goes on when activated by an animal entering its infra-red field within an advertised 30 foot range, thereby saving batteries. It's designed to attach to a wall, fence, stake in the ground, etc. Call 1-877-820-0570.

In general, you can find ultrasonic devices at most large outdoor/garden stores. Make sure the frequency is designed for larger animals like cats.

## Physical barriers to digging

Gardens and flower beds can be protected from digging through a number of means:

- "Cat Scat" are plastic mats that are pressed into the soil. Each mat, complete with flexible plastic spikes, is cut into four pieces. The spikes are harmless to cats and other animals, but discourage excavation. Contact: [www.gardeners.com](http://www.gardeners.com) or call 1-888-833-1412.
- Cover exposed ground with rough surfaced rocks.
- Take branches from a thorny plant, like a Rose of Sharon tree, and lay them on the ground in a lattice-type pattern, then plant flowers and seeds in the openings. Regular lattice type fencing used in this way will also discourage digging.



## Make an outdoor litterbox

- A sandbox will tend to be an attractive place for cats to do their thing. Take a very large Rubbermaid plastic container and fill it with regular "kiddie sand box" sand. If you can, put a couple of pieces of the cats' poop in it to attract them. The cats will enjoy digging in the fine sand and will shift to using it. Scoop occasionally and once a month or so, dump and replace the sand.
- If you want to be extra neat, use a large Rubbermaid storage container for the box, filling the bottom with several inches of sand. Then cut a door in one of the sides, above sand level and approximately 8 x 8 inches. Keep the container covered.
- To be even neater, take the Rubbermaid storage container, turn it upside down and cut a hole in the side. Place a normal litterbox with regular litter inside the container.
- Another method is described by Audrey Boag of the Rocky Mountain Alley Cat Alliance: "For caretakers in the right circumstances, cats love a pile of peat moss (4 feet square, 8 inches deep) in a corner of the yard, replaced once a month or so. It's very cheap, easy to handle and dispose of, keeps the smell down, and is far more attractive than the neighbor's garden."

*Special thanks for Neighborhood Cats, New York City, for putting this excellent list together.*