

So many things tried, none really true...

Back when I was young and had one cat, my mom bought "Litter Green" which was supposedly infused with odor controlling chlorophyll. Then when I had two cats and on my own we used clay litter. We had a problem though, one of the cats would stand in the box, but her "business end" was over the edge of the box.

After replacing the carpet, sheet rock and baseboard, we put the boxes into a child's swimming pool. Well, that certainly worked very well. When the kitty went over the edge, cleanup was quick and simple. The inability for the clay litter to control the smell, however, was intolerable.

Searching for less smelly litter we bounced from one derived from corn husks, to one derived from wood chips and finally found crystals! Hooray for crystals! Why they are so expensive, I don't know but there is no smell. The dust from litter was annoying me and I thought this can't be good for anyone. In the midst, I obtained a fishtank that required 200 lbs of gravel. That gravel came in 50 lb bags clearly marked to Wear Respiratory protection, silica dust is a known carcinogen. Umm, isn't the crystals litter derived from silica? And yes, it is very dusty. I called the manufacturer and they were basically muttering to me; which gave me the impression that they were unaware of the health hazard, nor were they going to acknowledge any. Goodbye crystals, you were a good smell reducer but I am not taking any chances here.

So, what to do about the dust? Now I am particularly upset about ANY litter dust in my house.

I bought a book entitled [How to Toilet Train Your Cat](#) . After reading it, I was fairly confident that they can be taught, but my older and arthritic cat could not possibly maneuver herself and "hang on." So, I will have to wait on that one. What to do, what to do?

Alas, I see an advertisement for a "self-cleaning litterbox" with pelletized (plastic) litter and absolutely NO DUST. At the price of \$200, I received the wonderful device – boy was that thing cool. After the cats used it, it filled with water, swirled and spun and scooped the poop and even dried itself. Took 30 minutes. Too bad my one cat preferred pooping on the carpet next to it rather than in it!! Thank goodness for 100% money back guarantee!

By then, I was over my dust-phobia and started using the scoopable kind. I was very hesitant to do this – after all it is a "clay" type. Would it actually control odor? The answer is a resounding YES! However, you have to find the right brand. I am not going to knock off names here but it is less expensive than the name brands. You may wonder what I did about the swimming pool thing – 56 quart storage containers! High sides no "over the edge" spray. Filled up halfway, is high enough for the older cat to get out and I use small steps to get her in. I fill the box outside holding the litter container high up so as it pours in, the wind takes away a lot of dust.

Sidenote: After obtaining a Bengal in December, the existing Siamese were not too happy. Nonetheless, I no longer need litterboxes because they don't use them anymore!!!