

Automatic litter box planner

Measure the room. Count the ongoing cost. Give the cat a fair introduction.

1	Measure	2	Cost	3	Set up
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Use this before ordering

Manufacturer dimensions describe the machine, not the route into the room, the space needed to remove a drawer or the place where wet parts will dry. Fill this in for the exact model and variant you are considering.

Use it again during setup

Keep the old tray available, start with automatic cycles switched off and treat the first week as an introduction rather than a referendum on the purchase.

This worksheet supports, but does not replace, the exact manufacturer manual or veterinary advice. Prices, specifications and compatible consumables can change.

1. Will it fit properly?

Record the listing figures, then measure the working space. A machine that technically fits but cannot open, rotate, ventilate or be cleaned is too large for the location.

Exact model and variant	
Proposed room and position	
Machine width / space available	
Machine depth / space available	
Machine height / space available	
Required wall clearance	
Extra service or drawer clearance	
Entrance height / cat's comfortable step	
Cable length / socket distance	
Route through doors and stairs	

The physical checks

- The floor is hard, level and allowed by the manual; the machine will not sit on carpet or a mat if that can upset its sensors.
- The entrance and approach stay clear. The cat is not asked to squeeze between the machine and a wall.
- The waste drawer, hood or drum can be removed without moving a door, toilet, cupboard or the whole machine.
- Air can circulate around any vents and the required wall clearances are preserved.
- The cable reaches a suitable socket without an extension lead crossing the cat's route.
- Removable parts will fit in the washing area, and there is a clean place where they can dry fully.
- There is room to keep the familiar tray nearby during the transition.
- The cat meets the model's minimum weight, size and life-stage rules. If not, automatic mode stays off.

Decision

Fits with all working clearances? Yes / No	
If no, what must change?	

2. What will ownership cost?

Use the same period for every product. Put one-off accessories in the purchase total and repeat purchases in the monthly column. If you do not know a cost, write 'unknown' rather than zero.

Cost	Your figure	How to calculate it
Machine and required accessories	£	Purchase price + delivery + anything required to operate it
Litter each month	£	Bag price ÷ usable kg × kg used per month
Waste bags or liners each month	£	Pack price ÷ number in pack × bags used per month
Filters, deodorisers or cleaner	£	Annual spend ÷ 12
Subscription	£	Monthly fee; use zero only when genuinely optional
Electricity	£	Use the manufacturer's consumption figure if provided
Other repeat cost	£	Record the item and replacement frequency

Your totals

Recurring monthly cost	
Recurring annual cost = monthly cost × 12	
Chosen ownership period in years	
Estimated total = purchase + annual cost × years	

Compare with the present tray

- I used the same litter-use and ownership assumptions for both options.
- I did not count an optional subscription as free merely because it starts with a trial.
- I checked whether ordinary bags, litter and filters are allowed, rather than assuming proprietary supplies are required.
- The convenience is worth the difference for this household even if the machine does not reduce litter spending.

The Cat Standard's web calculator at catstandard.co.uk/automatic-litter-box-planner/ does the arithmetic without storing the figures you enter.

3. Set up and maintain it

Put the exact manual beside this checklist. Its safety, litter, cleaning and reset instructions take priority over a general worksheet.

Before arrival

- Save the manual and returns terms.
- Buy only compatible litter and required consumables.
- Prepare the measured, level location and keep the old tray.
- Plan where washed parts can dry completely.

First day

- Assemble the machine exactly as instructed and check every lock, liner and litter level.
- Leave automatic cycles switched off unless the manual says otherwise.
- Add a little familiar clean litter if the manufacturer permits it.
- Let the cat investigate without placing or trapping her inside.

First week

- Keep the old tray available and clean.
- Notice visits, hesitation, accidents and normal toileting rather than watching the app alone.
- Run manual cycles only when the cat is away and relaxed.
- Enable automatic mode only when the cat meets the model rules and uses the box confidently.

Routine

- Daily: check the waste drawer, litter level, entrance and error lights.
- Weekly: inspect contact surfaces, sensors and the area under and around the machine.
- At the manual's interval: unplug if instructed, wash only removable washable parts, and dry fully.
- Recheck fit, cable condition and stability after moving or cleaning.

Stop and investigate

- The cat strains, cries, toilets elsewhere or suddenly changes her habits.
- A cycle starts with the cat inside or sensors behave unpredictably.
- The machine rocks, leaks, smells electrical or has a damaged cable.
- Waste smears repeatedly, litter clumps badly or the drawer reports full unusually early.

Notes

More guidance: catstandard.co.uk/topics/litter/