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Litterfree Self-Washing Catbox

The stinkiest part of my apartment traditionally has been the cat litter box. I'm not good at emptying it with any regularity. My cat Roo is not thrilled at this shortcoming.

These days though, she's a happy kitty. Since the Litterfree Self-Washing Catbox has been installed, the box is no longer stinky.

The Litterfree device is a catbox with a hood that contains plastic granules, instead of the usual clumping or clay litter. It's hooked up to the toilet water supply and once a day it sucks fresh water into the box, grinds up the cat poo using a concealed blade and slushes it through a pipe that inserts under the toilet seat. (You have to manually flush afterwards.)

The \$300 box self cleans and then the unit blow-dries the litter. The system uses a non-toxic liquid detergent good for a month or two (three replacement bottles cost \$49).


The device has a timer that triggers a cleaning at 11am, once a day, though you can program it to clean more often or at other times.

It took Roo several days to get used to the box. It makes a horrendous Cuisinart noise when it goes into poo grinding mode. Roo was not impressed.

One concern is that the box won't sense when a cat is in it. The manufacturer says that the water and noise is enough to scare a cat away, however no harm is done if the cat refuses to exit the box. That said, imagine how you'd feel if your bathroom suddenly filled up with several inches of detergent-laced water and the toilet made blender noises.

Still the Litterfree system means a clean odor-free box that keeps everyone, include the cats, happy.

—**Andy Walker** • dig-it.com/74



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