

# KC PET PROJECT

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[www.kcpetproject.org](http://www.kcpetproject.org)

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## Keep Your Cat off Furniture and Counters

High places to climb and rest are important to cats—they allow cats to observe their surroundings from a safe place. **To keep your cat from climbing onto places where you don't want him, it's important to provide places he's welcome to climb.**

It's also essential that you make it clear where your cat should climb and where he shouldn't. Once you can answer "yes" to all the questions below, you'll be off to a good start.

- Have I removed food and other things that may interest my cat from places I don't want her to climb?**
- Are there high, safe, comfortable, easy-to-reach places for my cat?** These could include a cat tree, windowsill (only open windows if you have strong and secure screens), bookshelf, wall shelf, and desk.
- Have I placed treats in these cat-friendly places** to make it likely my cat will use them? Have I given my cat treats when I see him using these places?
- Are there cat toys and interesting things on the floor** to encourage him to stay on that level?
- Am I giving my cat daily exercise and interesting things to do** so she's less likely to bounce off the walls?

### Try a Deterrent

If none of the above techniques have kept your cat from jumping or sitting on a place where you don't want her, **put something there that will make that spot unpleasant.** You can remove it once your cat has learned to avoid that place.

**Deterrents are more effective than squirting your cat with water or making a loud noise.** Those things only work when you're around, and they don't teach your cat what you want her to do. Try the deterrents listed below in any order:

- **Double-sided tape** Cats avoid walking on sticky surfaces. Attach a tape such as Sticky Paws (sold at pet-supply stores) to metal, plastic, wood, leather, or fabric surfaces.

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- **Bubble wrap** This packing material with bubbles that pop is not something most cats want to walk on. Tape it onto the arms of chairs or counter tops or drape it over couches or beds.
- **Water** Cats typically avoid jumping or stepping into water. Put aluminum trays filled with an inch of water on counter tops, tables, or any area you do not want the cat to go. (This option can cause a bit of a mess.)
- **Rubber nubs** The rubber nubs that hold car mats and carpet runners in place are usually uncomfortable for cats to step on. Flip over a mat or runner and place it on a flat surface: counter top, table, bed, or couch.
- **Plastic shower curtains** Generally, cats dislike stepping on smooth plastic. Drape a thick plastic shower curtain over couches, beds, or tables when you're not using them.
- **Citrus** The smell of citrus is unpleasant to most cats. Using citrus alone isn't usually a strong deterrent, but adding lemon or lime juice (or a citrus spray carried by a pet-supply store) to any of the other materials will make them more powerful deterrents.



*It's important for cats to jump, climb, and relax above ground level, so they'll need an alternative to the kitchen counter. Mike McFarland/The HSUS*