

Scratching posts come in a variety of different shapes and styles

This resource provides a quick overview of the pros and cons of different styles of scratching. We also scored each scratching post on a scale of 1 to 5 (with 5 paws being the best) based on its overall characteristics as well as how attractive it was to our group of feline volunteers. Keep in mind that cats have individual preferences and you may need to experiment a little to find a scratching post that your cat likes.

Sisal Post

Features: sisal fiber substrate, vertical

Pros: very tall and stable (allowing cats to stretch out during scratching), many cats like sisal fiber, well-built and durable

Cons: expensive




Cardboard Pad

Features: corrugated cardboard substrate, horizontal

Pros: cats like to dig their nails into this and leave scratch marks, sprinkle catnip into holes to attract cat, inexpensive

Cons: wears out quickly




Cardboard Scratching Ring

Features: corrugated cardboard substrate, horizontal

Pros: cats like to dig their nails into this and leave scratch marks, rolling ball toy attracts cat to ring, sprinkle catnip into holes to attract cats, inexpensive

Cons: wears out quickly but cardboard insert can be replaced




Wall Mount Square

Features: sisal fiber substrate mounted on wood backing, vertical wall mount

Pros: good for small spaces as it takes up no room, many cats like sisal fiber substrate

Cons: scratching surface is a little small, must be fastened to wall with screws




Sisal Rope Tube

Features: sisal rope substrate and carpet base combination, horizontal

Pros: many cats have preference for sisal rope

Cons: carpet base could pose a problem for some cats with aversion to carpet




Sisal Pad

Features: sisal fiber substrate, horizontal or vertical

Pros: a versatile horizontal/vertical post that can be leaned against furniture, good height/length, many cats like sisal substrate, well-built and durable

Cons: expensive




Coconut Scratching Post

Features: coconut fiber substrate, vertical

Pros: cats find coconut fiber very attractive due to smell and sound it makes during use, cats like to dig their nails into this and pull out pieces of fiber, coconut sleeve twists around the base which cats seemed to like, coconut sleeves are replaceable when worn out

Cons: this post isn't tall enough to please all cats




Wood Log

Features: natural wood with bark, horizontal or vertical

Pros: a no cost solution that works well for cats that have an affinity for scratching wood

Cons: bark flakes off and can be messy inside the house




Door Mount

Features: sisal fiber substrate, vertical

Pros: good for small spaces as it can be hung on a door knob, comes with pre-attached toys and squeaker to attract cats, many cats like sisal fiber

Cons: door mount might limit accessibility in some homes




Cedar Post

Features: stripped cedar wood substrate, vertical

Pros: attractive/handmade design, good height and very stable, durable

Cons: expensive, may work well for cats that have affinity for scratching wood although our cats were not very interested in scratching it




Carpet Post

Features: carpet substrate, vertical

Pros: relatively inexpensive, common type of post that's easy to find in stores

Cons: cats can get nails caught in carpet fibers causing them to panic and avoid using the scratching post in the future




Emory Scratch Pad

Features: corrugated cardboard with "emory" powder coating, horizontal

Pros: comes with mounted toy to help attract cats

Cons: our cats were not interested in scratching this substrate



