

Top 10 Tips - How to Stop Your Cat Scratching the Furniture or Carpet

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In this article, I share with you a variety of effective and cat-friendly techniques that you can use to keep your cat from scratching the furniture, carpet, curtains and whatever else they may be getting their claws into.

It is really important to understand that scratching is a *natural behaviour* and you will never be able to completely stop your cat from scratching. It allows your cat to maintain their claws and mark their territory via the scent glands on their paws as well as the visual scratch marks. Also, many cats simply enjoy it, whether it is part of their morning stretch routine or to help with a bit of stress-relief.

Cats need to be discouraged from scratching what they are not meant to while at the same time encouraged to use their scratching post. Therefore, I highly recommend that you read [how to get your cat to use their scratching post](#) in conjunction with this article. Eventually, they should be consistently using their scratching post and you won't need to use any of these cat scratching prevention techniques.

So... how do you stop your cat scratching what they're not supposed to?

1. Restricting Access. To save the furniture you love it may be best to restrict access to certain areas of the house or to only allow supervised access while your cat is still learning to use their scratching post. Perhaps it may be worth putting the rug or the chest or drawers they have realised feels good to rub their claws across into temporary storage until you are confident they have learnt to use their designated scratching areas.

2. Double-Sided Sticky Tape. As most cats do not like having sticky paws you can cover any areas you don't want to be scratched with transparent double-sided sticky tape. It is fairly inconspicuous and therefore shouldn't be too noticeable. They may attempt to have a little scratch but once they realise their paws have become inconveniently hindered and the place that they once scratched is now attempting to stick to them, they will most like do the sticky walk of shame and go elsewhere. You can either buy an item such as [Ve-ge Double Sided Transparent Tape](#) or a purpose made product such as [Sticky Paws](#).

You can also try using [Aluminium Foil](#) or [Masking Tape](#) to cover any areas you do

not want to be scratched, get creative! Keep problem areas protected until your cat is consistently using their scratching post.



3. Cat Scratch Sofa Guards. [Cat Scratch Sofa Guards](#) are sheets made from clear vinyl that conform to the contours of any sofa. They are both an unobtrusive and permanent solution. Unlike the sticky tape, they will also not collect hairs.

4. A Large Throw. Why not simply buy a large, inexpensive blanket, such as the [Luxury Fleece Blanket by Bedsure](#) that is both low-cost and high-quality, to drape over and protect your furniture until you have effectively trained your kitty to use their scratching post.

5. Cat Deterrent Spray. Some people find that cat deterrent sprays do not work, it may simply be that they are not effective on some cats or it may be because they are not being sprayed frequently enough. To be effective sprays need to be applied every 24 hours until the scratch habit has been broken. One of the best cat deterrent sprays, that also comes with an 180-day satisfaction guarantee, is [Claw Withdraw Cat Deterrent Spray](#), which you can spray on your furniture or carpet.

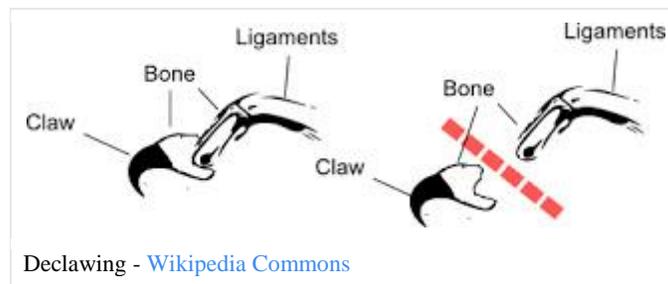
6. Pet Odor Eliminator. Since one of the reasons that cats scratch is to mark their territory you must remove their scent from the furniture, so that they won't be tempted to 'top-up' when it starts to fade. [Citrus Magic Pet Odor Eliminator](#) is my favourite product to use. It scores extra bonus points because of the citrus smell it leaves behind, which most cats hate. Use a good odour eliminator on all the surfaces that your cat currently scratches.

7. Trim Their Claws. Regularly trimming your cat's claws may help to slow down the damage caused to your furniture and carpets. Make sure you buy high-quality and easy to use nail clippers, such as the [Pet Nail Clippers by Shiny Pet](#). Cats claws are round and therefore these clippers with their curved edges are much more comfortable to use as they apply pressure evenly around the nail.

8. Soft Claws. This solution is often a last resort. [Soft Claws](#) are nail caps that cover your cat's claws so that they can't scratch your furniture. They come in a variety of colours and, yes, they make your cat look like they are wearing nail polish! They are easy to apply and last for 4-6 weeks.

9. Declawing. Please do **NOT** declaw your cat. The last joint in each toe is severed. How would you feel if someone literally chopped off the ends of your fingers so that your nails were completely removed? It is a painful procedure that

can result in a variety of complications, such as continual bleeding or ongoing pain. Some animal behaviourists report that it can also lead to behavioural problems, such as aggression and anxiety. Cats need their claws for climbing, defence, balancing and grasping, so please leave them be.



10. Avoid Punishment. Shouting, loud noises, spraying water and motion sensors are all forms of punishment, which can be confusing for a cat that is simply carrying out a normal behaviour. Punishing a cat can also create anxiety and damage your bond with them. They may also just learn to just scratch when you are not there, and so the problem has not been solved.

Rather than punishment, I would recommend using positive reinforcement and clicker training techniques to stop your cat scratching the furniture. More can be learnt about these methods in [Marilyn Krieger's book *Naughty No More*](#). Clicker training is a fun way to teach your cat to not scratch the furniture while spending some bonding time together.

