

Keeping your cat safe and happy during building works



Having a full renovation of your home or just doing a few odd jobs? The change in environment and routine could spell stress for your feline family member. Here's how to keep your cat calm in the process.

Plan in advance

Before you even book your builder, think about what you'll do with your cat. Huge home overhaul? Consider putting your cat in a cattery or somewhere they can be looked after by family and friends.

Steer clear of hazards

Cats are known for their curiosity. Keep them away from construction areas and painting sites ensuring chemicals, paintbrushes and loose nails or screws are safely out of reach.

Keep your cat's space the same

Keeping your cat's litter tray, food bowls and toys in the same spot as usual will limit their stress. If you do need to move them, remember to do it gradually.

Maintain a routine

Cats are creatures of habit. Feed them the same time as you usually would and keep to your daily tasks to reassure them that everything is as normal.

Create a cat-only zone

A quiet room away from the noise of the building works is ideal for nervous cats. Allow them to come and go – confining them to a room can make them feel anxious.

Give them a space up high

Sitting in a high spot allows cats to feel safe so they can survey their home. Try a cardboard box on a high shelf or a snugly bed on a sturdy wardrobe.

Try soothing sounds and scents

If your cat is particularly nervous, kit their room out with a few extras. A radio played at a low volume can help keep them calm, while a plug-in diffuser will emit relaxing pheromones.

For more advice visit www.cats.org.uk/cats-and-building-work

