

Scratching Post Placement

Watch your cat's scratching behavior to determine where to place his scratching post.

Pam Johnson-Bennett

Q. How does the placement of scratching posts help discourage furniture scratching? How can I optimize a scratching post so my cats will choose to scratch there instead of somewhere they shouldn't?

Feline behaviorist Pam Johnson-Bennett, author of *Think Like a Cat*, says:

Many people make the mistake of locating posts in out of the way places and then they get forgotten. Cats want to be where we are so locate posts where you and your cats spend the most time.

If your cat is scratching the furniture, locate the posts where she is scratching now. Put the post right next to the sofa if that's the current target.

Many cats scratch upon waking, after eating, when excited or emotional, and when finished in the litter box. Observe your cat and you may find his preferences.

Best,
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IAABC-Certified Animal Behavior Consultant

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