IN CAGE SCRATCHER FOR CATS

Materials Needed

- Clean corrugated cardboard boxes (all tape, labels, stickers, and staples removed)
- Box cutter or utility knife, plus a cutting mat or metal ruler
- Non-toxic glue, such as school glue or low-temp hot glue
- Clamps, rubber bands, or heavy objects to hold it tight while drying
- Optional for hanging: a heavy-duty hole punch and natural twine (jute or sisal)

Why it works: Scratching lets cats stretch, shed stress, and leave scent from their paws. In a cage, it gives them a way to make the space their own.



Step-by-Step Instructions

1. Measure and Cut

- Measure the space in the cage where the scratcher will hang or sit.
- Cut the cardboard into strips 1.5–2 inches wide, all the same length.

2. Prep for Hanging (Optional)

- Punch a hole near the top edge of each strip, in the same spot, so the twine can thread through once it's glued.

3. Glue and Assemble

- **Flat pad:** Glue the strips side by side with the corrugated edges facing out.
- **Spiral pad:** Roll a long strip into a tight coil, gluing as you wrap.
- Pack them tight so claws catch on the corrugation, not loose gaps.

4. Clamp and Dry

- Clamp it or wrap it firmly with rubber bands, or weigh it down.
- Let it dry completely, a few hours or overnight depending on the glue.

5. Add to the Cage

- Thread the twine through the holes and tie it to the bars with tight double knots. Trim the ends short so there's nothing to chew or get caught in.
- Hang it at stretching height, near the bed. Cats love a good scratch after a nap. No hanging setup? Lay it flat on the floor instead.

6. Care and Refresh

- One scratcher per cat. It goes home with them on adoption, or into recycling, never to the next cat.
- Check the twine daily and replace the scratcher once it's shredded or soiled.

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