How to Stop Cats from Scratching Up Furniture & Carpets

Cats are intelligent creatures that are easily trainable. When there is a problem between a cat and its custodian (you don't really own a cat) it is usually not the cat. If the cat is looking directly at you and begins to scratch she is trying to get attention from you. Scratching is a natural thing for a cat and your cat won't understand efforts to punish her for scratching. Punishment will only stress your cat causing increased scratching. It is important to understand the nature of a feline before taking action. There is a way to stop the scratching.

Things you'll need
Scratching post
Aluminum foil
Double sided tape
Orange peel
Cat repellant

Cat Scratching
1 Give your cat an acceptable place to scratch. Buy a scratching post, kitty condo, or emery scratch pad. Your local pet store will have many different types of scratching posts. Choose one that is large enough for your cat. Find a scratching post or kitty condo that has a sisal rope area which is a very durable scratching surface. Another consideration is a scratching post or kitty condo that has a cozy area for cat napping.

2 Catnip is your friend too. When you bring home the new scratching post your cat will be curious but may not scratch right away. Encourage your cat to use the new scratching post by applying catnip or catnip spray to the base of the scratching post base. When you catch your cat using the scratching post give lots of praise and a few treats.

3 Cover the old popular scratching surface, like the edge of your couch, with aluminum foil or double stick tape. Cats hate to have sticky paws and they don't like the sound or feel of aluminum foil. Set the new scratching post in front, almost blocking, what your cat was scratching on before. Cats don't like change much so don't move the scratching post from place to place. After the scratching post has become your cat's favorite place to scratch you can move it a few inches each day to gradually move the scratching post a better location in the house.

4 Rub the old scratching area with orange peel. Cats don't like the scent of citrus and this will discourage your cat away from the area. There are several commercially produced cat repellant sprays and products you can try.

5 Use a spray bottle as an implement of discipline. Cats are easily trained. Never hit your cat. Not only is it cruel but your cat will never understand the message you are sending. Instead you will become a source of stress and fear to your cat. The more your cat is stressed the more she will need to scratch. When you catch your cat scratching in the wrong place give her a squirt (not in the face or eyes) from the spray bottle. Next time you will only have to show your cat the spray bottle.

Tips
If you are going to live with a cat it is a good idea to know something about cats. Read about cats, what is natural to them, why they do things, and how to live peacefully together with a cat.

Warnings
If you feel a solution to scratching is to de-claw your cat, do both of you a favor and find the cat a good home. De-clawing a cat is an act of maiming. The surgical procedure is very painful because it involves amputating the last joint of the cat's claws and can cause emotional, physical and behavioral disorders. Instead of a cat that claws you will have a cat in pain that replaces
scratching with biting or worse. De-clawing is cruel, inhumane, and should not ever be considered.

Keywords how to stop cats from scratching furniture, training cats, cats and scratching posts

Reference:
Cat Scratching http://www.catscratching.com/
Problem Scratching and how to stop it. http://www.thecatsite.com/Behavior/51/Problem-Scratching-And-How-To-Stop-It.html

Resources
Notes on Scratching http://www.celiahaddon.co.uk/pet%20problems/cats/scratching.html
How to deter your cat from scratching furniture http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ARtnYW9pDak
13 ways to save your furniture from cat scratching http://www.allourpets.com/feline/stop-scratching.shtml