

Cleaning & Hygiene Checklist

Protecting fragile newborn immune systems · tinypawsguide.com

Every feeding

- Wash hands before and after handling each kitten
- Use a fresh warm damp cloth per kitten for stimulation
- Wipe face and bottom; check for discharge
- Wash bottles and nipples in hot soapy water

Daily

- Sterilize bottles (5 minute boil or bottle sterilizer)
- Change all bedding (more often if soiled)
- Wipe down the nest box with a pet-safe disinfectant
- Wash towels in unscented detergent — no fabric softener
- Check eyes, nose, ears, bottom on every kitten

Weekly

- Replace cardboard nest boxes (they absorb odors and bacteria)
- Deep clean the kitten room floor and surfaces
- Inspect heating pad and thermometer; confirm 85–90°F nest temp
- Rotate full sets of bedding so swaps are instant

Every 2–3 weeks

- Replace bottle nipples (they degrade and harbor bacteria)

Keep separate from kittens

- Adult cats and dogs (until kittens are weaned and vaccinated)
- Shoes from outside; outdoor clothing
- Anyone who has handled another sick litter

Red flags — tighten hygiene immediately

- Recurring eye gunk or sneezing across the litter
- Skin irritation, rashes, or hair loss
- Sudden diarrhea in multiple kittens