



Information about Proviro Group wood pellets

What are wood pellets made of ?

Wood pellets are made from Australian plantation pine residuals (examples Slash, Caribbean, Radiata) left over from the sawmilling process when logs are converted into timber and other high-value wood products. By making wood pellets from fibre that was once burned or left behind, the wood pellet sector is reducing waste and turning debris into valuable, low carbon biofuel or animal bedding. No other ingredients are added, simply just shavings, steam and pressure.

How are wood pellets made?

Basically to create wood pellets, kiln dried pine residuals (heated to 100 °C +)

+) are compressed into small cylinder shaped pellets through a ring die pellet mill—6.5 diameter, and a length of up to 12.5 mm. Heat (100-115°C), steam and pressure are applied in this process which causes lignin (shiny surface of a pellet) —a natural polymer found in wood—to act as a glue to hold the compressed particles together. The pellets go into a screener machine that uses a vibrating sifter to remove any fine particles and then the clean pellets are ready for automated packaging. The result is a dry, highly compressed and high energy-value product that can be easily handled and transported efficiently as heating or animal bedding.

Is wood pellet litter safe for cats and small animals ?

Yes! Wood pellet litter is one of the safest options out there because it is simple and natural

Let's break down the safety benefits along with some of the potential risks you've probably heard about.

Decreased Dangers Around Ingestion

Ingestion of clay cat litter can happen a lot more frequently than you might think. While it's typically not a problem in small amounts, it's still easy for the fine particles from clay litter to get stuck in the cat's paws and eventually end up in their stomach. Most clay or clumping litter also contains sodium bentonite which is what helps the litter efficiently absorb liquid. However, the bigger risk for sodium bentonite litter comes from intestinal blockage. Because sodium bentonite can expand several times its original size when exposed to liquid while also hardening, it can expand in the stomach resulting in a deadly blockage.

Still, the risk is low for most cats. But it's also non-existent when using wood pellet litter that is not only free from sodium bentonite but is also *much* more difficult for the cat to ingest. Not only are the pellets larger, but also don't stick to paws in the same way. Finally, though wood pellet litter absorbs liquid, it also breaks apart decreasing the risk of intestinal blockage.

Dust Inhalation & Litter Allergies

Minimal dust compared to traditional clumping litters

CATMATE Wood pellet litter is free of fragrance and artificial compounds minimising skin and breathing issues

What about the dangers Of Pine Oils and Phenols?

Essential oils are toxic to cats, "Cats lack an essential enzyme in their liver and as such have difficulty metabolizing and eliminating certain toxins like essential oils."

While the first thing we probably think of when it comes to essential oils are things like potpourri, essential oils are just any natural oil.

Because pine pellets are processed under high heat twice, once in the raw material kiln drying and then in the pelletising processing, the pine oils and phenols are removed. Pine pellets also effectively reduce odour-causing microorganisms due to their inherent antibacterial characteristics.

Why then is there still a Pine smell?

When wood pellets get wet, they degrade into sawdust, which retains and removes urine and ammonia smells. The pine smell is the natural smell of the wood without any added fragrances or oils. The pine odour (known as Pinene) is due to chemical compounds called terpenes. Terpenes are composed of carbon and hydrogen, are environmentally friendly and are considered renewable resources.

Proviro Group wood pellet brands

CATMATE: Litter for cats & kittens

HORSEMATE: Stable bedding for Horses

MINIMATE: Bedding and for all other small animals, rodents, reptiles, birds

HEATMATE: Heating fuel for pellet heaters



For further information please email info@provirogroup.com.au