



## Perches (from the Cat's Point of View!)

I need to know what is going on around me. I am curious. I am a cat. I can hear sounds coming from outside and smell lots of strange things but I need to see what is happening out there. I want to know that I am safe. If I can hear and smell but can't see it, it might frighten me.

I need something that allows me to elevate myself from ground level. I like to climb. A perch will provide me with a safe and private place to watch the action from above. A perch is a must-have for me and is anything that allows me to lie, sit, sleep, or look outside from above. Perches come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes. You can get perches that attach to the windowsill or you could custom build a perch for me. I would like more than one perch so I can look outside at different angles.

You can place a couch, sofa, chair, or sturdy table in front of a window so I can look outside. To make the scenery more attractive for me, you could hang a bird feeder in the yard, plant pretty flowers to attract bees, butterflies, and other insects. This will keep me interested. I may sit on my perch for hours and look outside.

I may feel safer if I can sleep somewhere high, so please provide me with places to climb on where I feel safe and where no other animal or human could sneak up on me. If you are having a problem with finding a suitable area for a perch, watch me and I will show you where I feel comfortable, usually by curling up in a ball and falling asleep. If you prefer that I use a different area than I chose, you will need to offer me treats and kind words as you place me in the area you would like for me to use – make this area more enticing. If I refuse to stay there, then allow me to approach it on my own. Put my favorite treat or toy on the perch so I will investigate. I may just use the couch, the end table, on top of the dresser to make my own perch. Please consider this when rearranging the furniture or moving: can I still see outside?

