

How to Make a TERRARIUM!!!

Supplies:

- Gravel/Sand
- Activated Charcoal (you can find this at most pet and garden stores)
- Potting Soil
- Glass Container (with or without a lid)
- Plants—Cacti, Succulents, Moss, and Ferns work well.

Methods:

1. Prepare and gather supplies. Make sure your container is clean and dry. Place a layer of gravel or sand in the bottom for drainage, it should be between ½ -1 ½ inches deep depending on your container. If you over water your terrarium, this will save your plants. Next, sprinkle a thin layer of activated carbon. This helps purify the air and water in your terrarium decreasing the likelihood of mold and rot. Finally, place 2-4 inches of potting soil in your container (again, depending on the size of your container).
2. After your environment is created, you can start to arrange and place your plants. Make sure you like the arrangement and then make shallow holes to plant your plants. Start with the larger plants and add smaller plants to fill in space. Don't over crowd your terrarium in the beginning because your plants will grow and take up more space eventually. Choose plants that all require the same amount of water, sunlight, etc. If you mix plants that are too different, some will inevitably die. Try to mix colors, textures and sizes to create a more aesthetic look.
3. After you plant your plants, give your terrarium some water. Again, **DO NOT OVERWATER!!** Start conservatively with watering, only a little at a time. Try using a spray bottle to avoid overwatering. Watering frequency will depend on the plants you choose.

Tips and Tricks for making and maintaining terrariums!

- Be creative with your tools. Use things like spoons and chopsticks to reach places your hands can't.
- Making terrariums are a great way to recycle glass jars and containers. Remember... reduce, reuse, recycle!
- Be careful about where you place your terrarium. Too much sun can literally COOK your plants. Avoid too much direct sunlight.
- If your terrarium plants get too large, feel free to clip and trim them. You can also temporarily remove them, split the plant into more plants and replant.
- Embellish your terrarium with shells, rocks, and/or figurines to make it more personalized.
- You can clean the inside and outside of your terrarium with simple glass cleaner. Just be careful to avoid hitting your plants!