

TERRARIUM INSTRUCTIONS

There are two types of terrariums, Closed and Open. A closed terrarium has a lid to enclose the plants entirely within a glass container. Moisture from the soil and plants evaporate in the slightly higher temperature inside the terrarium. This water vapor condenses on the walls of the glass container and falls back to the plants and soil below. An open terrarium has no lid. The plants are within the glass beneath the opening of the container. An open container will need some watering as condensation will be minimal.

Materials needed to assemble a terrarium - open or closed.

1. Glass jar (with fitted lid for a closed terrarium)
2. Rocks or gravel for drainage
3. Sheet moss to separate soil from drainage
4. Activated charcoal
5. Soil substrate
6. Plants
7. Loose moss for soil coverage
8. Spoon, squirt bottle, chopsticks, scissors, paper towels
9. Decorative elements

Steps

1. Clean and dry glass container (and lid)
2. Add 1-2" of drainage layer
3. Add sheet moss with moss side facing drainage layer
4. Add ¼-½" activated charcoal
5. Add 2-3" dampened soil mixture
6. Select plants. Trim foliage if needed. Trim roots as necessary
7. Place plants where you would like them
8. Lift plants and make a small hole with spoon or hands and replace them into the holes
9. Press the roots into place gently with hands or back of spoon
10. Add decorative objects such as stones, natural elements (sticks, cones, shells, etc), or whimsical figurines
11. Add moss for soil coverage, if desired
12. Spritz plants and soil with spray bottle
13. Wipe sides of the container, as needed
14. Place the lid on top

Placement and care- Closed terrariums do best with no direct sunlight. Direct sunlight may "cook" the plants from heat and humidity. A bright room away from a window is sufficient. Placing it under artificial light is okay. If moisture builds up too much, you may remove the lid for an hour or so to let some humidity escape. Plants may need trimming on occasion and any dead material must be removed in a timely manner.



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Link to plant list: <https://extension.missouri.edu/publications/g6520>