

HOW TO CREATE A DIY TERRARIUM

Creating your own handmade terrarium is actually quite simple as long as you have the right materials on hand. All you need is a clear glass container, some gravel, gardening charcoal, a little bit of soil, stones, rocks, shells, small trinkets and miniature plants like succulents or air plants. These materials are affordable, easy to source or purchase. Let your creative juice flow and see how you can brighten up your indoor space with your own DIY terrariums!

Creating a Base:

- A. Reuse old fish bowls, old glass jar or old coffee pot. If it is your first time to make a terrarium, you may use a mason jar.
- B. Use an antibacterial soap to clean the container well. Rinse and dry thoroughly before using.
- C. Add some gravel or fine sand at the bottom of the container so that water will drain away from plants to prevent root rot.
- D. Put some crushed gardening charcoal on top of the gravel or sand to remove bad smell and prevent molds from forming. Take note that barbecue charcoal is not recommended as it contains chemicals that may be toxic to plants.
- E. Add quality soil to the top of your charcoal base. You can use garden soil or soil from other potted plants.



Choosing your Plants:

A. Select lovely and affordable plants of your liking. Your choice of plants is endless for as long as these plants do not grow too much and they are compact in size. Recommended plants for closed terrariums are small ferns, orchids and moss as long as you provide humid and moist environment while plants that are suitable for open terrariums are succulents and cacti which require dry conditions.

B. Mark the place where you will put your plants in the soil and make sure you leave some space between plants so that they have ample space to grow.

C. Take out the plant from its original pot including its roots. Gently create mini-valleys where you can place the plants.

D. Place the plants in the valleys you dug in the layer of the soil. Cover the roots with soil and pack soil around the plants to make them stable and stand on their own.

Accessorize your Terrarium:

- A. Scavenge for interesting stones to add to your terrarium. After placing the plants, it is time to fill up other spaces using interesting stones of different colors, shapes and sizes.
- B. Add some moss to your terrarium either by purchasing them in stores or getting them for free by scraping them off from walls, trees, rocks, or ground.
- C. Add some branches, twigs, barks of trees that you can easily get in your backyard or nearby parks. You can also add some colorful and interesting shells to add some variety.
- D. Add some trinkets like marbles, used buttons, beads that are lying around the house, which can add color, texture and elegance to your terrariums.
- E. Provide water and indirect sunlight. Terrariums require minimum maintenance just make sure you do not overwater them only water them when the soil is dry.



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