

Terrarium Tutorial (or Terrarium Tips)

Terrariums are made up of stone, soil, charcoal, plants and a little personality. There is an Art and Science to creating this mini eco-system. Everyone is unique. Here are some pointers for creating and caring for your own Terrarium.

Creating your Terrarium

- Choose a **Clean Glass jar** add ½" of **Clean Gravel for** drainage.
- Add ½" of **Charcoal for Filtration.**
- Carefully cut a **Coffee filter or newspaper** slightly smaller than the container and place it on top of the charcoal.
- Add 1" of **soil** on top of the paper.
- Add **Moisture loving plants.** Place the plants carefully using tools that fit your terrarium's shape.
- **Tools** can be things you find around the house Chopsticks, spoons and long handled tweezers often work best.
- Add a top layer of **soil** to cover plants (1/2")
- Go crazy, in a Feng Shui kind of way, with **Bling** (tiny figures, colored glass, lichen or bark)

Caring for your Terrarium

- **Placement:** Place the terrarium in bright but indirect sunlight. If you don't have an area with bright indirect light, place a 100-watt light or fluorescent bulbs over the garden for 16 to 18 hours each day.
- **Watering: The most common mistake is to overwater terrariums.**
 - For open terrariums, add water with a spray bottle or tablespoon one a week. Stop when you see water begin to collect at the bottom of the terrarium.
 - For closed Terrariums you may only need to water every 4-6 months. Look for condensation on the plants, and for dry soil. Condensation should form on the inside of the container and eventually run back down into the soil to serve as a water supply. If it forms on the plants instead, then the interior is too moist. Keep the cover off for a time each day until the plants are dry, this can take 15 minutes to an hour. If the soil dries out, add water in small portions and stop if you see it begin to sit and not absorb into the soil.
- **Maintenance:** Plants will eventually outgrow the container. Prune the plants back by pinching them off with your fingers or transplant to a larger container. . Remove dead plants right away. Fertilizing terrarium plants may cause them to grow too large.

For more information go to <http://pennhort.libguides.com/Terrariums>