

**Ten steps to an awesome environment for your Gerbils. Polly & Sian.
Gerbilcare.co.uk**



Photo 1: You can buy this Ikea Detolf direct from Ikea online. There are online YouTube tutorials of how to make lids or several Etsy or Facebook sellers who can make these for you. Tank Dimensions are 163cm (L) x 43 (W) x 37 (H) When getting your tank ready, clean it with a pet safe disinfectant.

When constructing a new tank, always add about 20% of your Gerbils old bedding, they are scent based so like to feel familiar in their environment. The accessories are all wooden, never used plastic as it can be fatal if ingested.





Photos 2 to 4. Accessories

Corner Cabin: Trixie Jesper Corner House. We've added plain white, unscented toilet paper sheets to get their nest started. Gerbils will construct this themselves. Just add toilet paper!

Hides: Wooden bendy playsticks.

Tank Divider: is Woodlands Wooden Playsticks (Large) 30cm High x 47cm long. This separates the tunnelling area from the food, sand and play area. We've cut about 4cm from the top of 6 sticks to create an exit/entrance is

Stand: Trixie Natural Living Shelter with Platform and Steps. This is for some scatter food and to keep the sand bath away from the substrate.

Sand Bath: The sand bath is an old Pyrex Kitchen dish using Tiny Friends Farm small pet bathing sand.

Wheel: Trixie Wooden Exercise Wheel 28cm. Always use a solid wooden wheel.

Water Bottle: Duvo (similar to Living World) glass drinking bottle small 177ml.

Water Bottle Stand: Trixie Water Bottle Holder. We've removed the stand and screwed the holder to the tank to give it the correct height. The detached stand is used as a drip tray.

Ladder: This gives access in and out of the tank areas and is approx. 7cm x 55cm

We've added a Millett sprig and Apple Tree branches from the garden, cooked in the oven for 30 mins to kill any bugs and harden them off. You can add as many Gerbil safe forage treats as you like and really use your imagination with their set up.







Photo's 5, 6, 7 & 8 – Building the tunnelling/nesting area

Add a layer of the old substrate, a layer of Timothy Hay (good quality and dust extracted) this binds their tunnels, and a layer of the new substrate. Repeat these steps until the tank is at least 20cm deep. Add cardboard, egg boxes, plain packaging paper etc. We've added postal tubes, 7cm wide so the Gerbils don't get stuck. Between layers scatter dry food to encourage foraging. Add more toilet paper to the top layer of the tank and add paper regularly as the nest is always under construction.

Substrate: We always use Finacard as it's dust extracted, odour free and good value for money. Megazorb, Carefresh etc also work well.





Photo's 9 & 10 – Just add Gerbils!

Your Gerbils will terraform and change the tank to their liking. Gerbils find it stressful to have their environment changed too often so with a correct sized tank they will only need a full clean every 4-6 weeks. Spot clean ledges, change water and sand baths daily. .