

Basic Terrarium Setup

Terrestrial isopods are very docile and often shy creatures. When setting up a terrarium for the first time, it's important to keep in mind that they will appreciate some room to burrow and hide in. The minimum soil depth they need to be healthy is 3"-6". Once you have the right soil levels you should put down some leaf litter. The minimum size requirement for an isopod terrarium is a one gallon tank, but anything above that is just fine too. To keep their exoskeletons healthy and strong, you need to give them a source of calcium. The most popular source to feed them is cuttlebone. Cuttlebone is very cheap but it may be easier to give them some crushed up eggshells instead.

Substrate/Moisture

Isopods generally aren't picky about what kind of soil you use, as long as they have some plant matter with it. The best way to go about making a substrate mix for them is to get some potting soil and bake it in the oven for 15 minutes at 200 degrees fahrenheit to kill any pathogens or unwanted critters. Although isopods live on land, they have gills and therefore require a source of water or certain moisture levels to breathe. Zebra isopods live in temperate and tropical climates, so they can live in environments with 60-90% humidity levels.

Food

Zebra isopods eat decaying organic matter, so really they only require leaf litter and some moss or other small plants. However if you want to feed them other things then small pieces of fruit would be your best option. When a colony is first starting to grow, I highly recommend giving them a little more substance to give them the extra nutrients they need. If you decide to do so we have dietary supplements for sale! Our supplements contain all the added nutrients needed to support a healthy and happy colony. Please keep in mind that to avoid overpopulation you should not overfeed them. Letting them live off of leaf litter and dietary supplements will prevent an overcrowded tank and cannibalization.