



## How to care for your new Vivarium:

Thank you for purchasing a Frog Forest Designs Vivarium!  
Here are some tips to help keep your new living vivarium happy, healthy and thriving:

Keep your included daylight fixture on a 12 hour cycle. You can achieve this simply by purchasing an inexpensive outlet timer and setting the light to come on at sunrise and go off at sunset. For example; 7:00 am light is set to turn on and 7:00 pm light is set to turn off.

Use your included sprayer to heavily mist the tank 1-2x per day to water the plants. The plants may or may not be fully rooted and acclimated at the time of purchase (some take longer than others), so watering more often may be beneficial to help them root. Once the plants are fully established and growing, they will naturally help maintain humidity within the tank, and less watering will be required. We recommend you use Reverse Osmosis (RO) or Distilled water, as most tap water contains harsh chemicals that can harm the plants or animals inside.

*Note: Do not use commercial fertilizers if you plan to keep frogs or other animals inside the vivarium. If you plan to keep live animals in your vivarium, their waste acts as a great natural fertilizer for the plants.*

Keep an eye on the included thermometer/hygrometer display to maintain proper temperature and humidity levels. These tropical plants will thrive in temperatures ranging from 70° - 85° and a high relative humidity level of 60-90%. The light above the tank will give off a small amount of heat, but the easiest way to control the temperature is to keep the room thermostat set within a comfortable range. Use more frequent or less frequent misting depending on your humidity reading.

The microfauna (springtails and/or isopods) included in your living ecosystem are like little tank janitors that will help breakdown and consume plant and animal waste inside the vivarium. You can also give them a special treat of fruit and vegetable shavings such as watermelon rinds, potato slices, carrot shavings, avocado skins, and bananas. They'll even eat tropical fish flakes and dog food! They are nocturnal and will hide during the day, so don't be discouraged if you don't see them.

Keep the plants trimmed and pruned if they start getting over-grown. Even though we choose plants which are sized to properly fit within each vivarium, under optimal conditions they will continue to grow for years and years. Trimming and pruning will also make for easier viewing of any critters living inside!

Your vivarium will have a built in drainage layer under the substrate, which is a very important part of the design. Water from misting will eventually drip down into the substrate and drain through it, ending up in the drainage layer below. This drainage layer helps ensure the substrate does not get over-saturated or soggy, and helps keep up the humidity within the tank. Depending on your misting schedule, the water in the drainage layer may need to be drained from time to time. You can use a simple turkey baster (or similar device) to siphon excess water out via our special "Riverbed" design in the front bottom of your tank. You do not want the water in the drainage layer below to reach the bottom of the substrate, which can easily be monitored just by looking at the side of your tank.

