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So youre getting a new bearded dragon? Congratulations! One of the most exciting things you can do beforehe arrives is put together his new home. But it can also be a really overwhelming task, because there is no shortage of opinions on how to create the perfect bearded dragon tank setup. What kind of material should you use? How hot should the tank be? Is sand really that bad? What kind of lights do you need?Dont be overwhelmed! Were sharing the basics you need to create your ideal bearded dragon tank setup and get an overview of what is safe and what is not when it comes topreparingyour dragons new home.Bearded Dragon Tank Setup: SuppliesBefore you bring your dragon home, youll need to have the following supplies:EnclosureUVB lightHeating element, thermometer, and hygrometerBasking rock or logFlooringSome shallow dishes for water and foodLive feeder insects and tweezersAdequate space in your homeBearded Dragon Tank Setup: The EnclosureFirst things first! What kind of enclosure do you want your bearded dragon to be living in? This is an important decision. Your dragon will spend quite a lot of time here, and its important to make him as happy as possible.There are a number of factors to consider when choosing the best enclosure for your bearded dragon tank setup: size, material, and where you will keep the enclosure in your home.Size. What size tank does a bearded dragon need? The size of your bearded dragon will help you determine the size of the enclosure. The standard size for bearded dragons is 40 gallons, although many adults are too big for this size and may become stressed. Here is a good rule of thumb for choosing a tank size based on your dragons length:Babies (under 10 inches long): 20 gallonsJuveniles (10 to 16 inches long): 40 gallonsAdults (over 16 inches long): 50 to 75 gallonsAdults (over 20 inches long): 75 to 125 gallonsIf you plan on getting a baby bearded dragon, it may be tempting to buy a 20-gallon tank. If you decide to do this, just remember dragons tend to grow fast so you will soon need a 40-gallon tank. Many Dragon Keepers end up getting a 40-gallon tank even for a baby to avoid buying another one so soon afterwards, but its up to you.You may decide to get a 20-gallon for now because you have a small space and youll be moving soon. Or maybe you are keeping a baby and then giving him to a friend. It all depends on your circumstances and preferences.Choosing the proper size tank for your bearded dragon helps her to feel comfortable and less stressed, especially in those first few weeks when you bringher home andshe is adjusting to a whole new environment. A good size tank prevents glass surfing as well, which is often caused by dragons feeling too caged in.Enclosure MaterialNow lets discuss what is the best material to use for your tank. There are definitely plenty to choose from, and if you start looking up options online you may feel overwhelmed. If you arent going to build your own tank DIY style, chances are youll buy one online or at a pet store. Here are some of the basic tanks that you can choose from:Glass. A popular option, glass terrariums are sturdy, widely available, and usually come with a screen lid that improves airflow and helps regulate the low humidity dragons need. You can also get a front-opening glass terrarium that makes it easy to access your pet and clean the tank.On the downside, glass is a poor heat insulator, so youll have to check the temperature regularly to make sure its not too cold. This isnt too difficult to commit to especially if you have a thermometer gun.Wood and Glass. Many Dragon Keepers opt to get a terrarium made of wood and glass instead of just glass with a screen top. Oftentimes this means there is one side that is glass and the rest is wood. Wood is an excellent heat insulator, so this may be a better option for you than a full glass terrarium if you live in a colder area or like to keep your home temperature low. It also may offer you more peace of mind so you dont have to worry about your dragons heat as much.PVC Plastic is another option. Its quite lightweight, and there are generally a lot of colors you can choose from. PVC enclosures are often designed for stacking, which is ideal if you plan on adopting more than one dragon.One common issue with PVC terrariums is poor airflow, so you have to be a little more vigilant with the humidity levels than with other cages. This shouldnt be too difficult if you get into the habit of checking the humidity on a regular basis.Screen. In your search for a terrarium you may see some that have walls made from wire screens. These are extremely dangerous for bearded dragons. In addition to the obvious heating issue, screen cages can injure bearded dragons.Of course, glass terrariums with a screen lid are a different story, because the bearded dragon will likely not be able to reach the screen lid.We cannot recommend using a screen-walled terrarium.Location in Your HomeSome first-time Dragon Keepers might not realize how important it is to determine where you will put your bearded dragon ahead of time. It will save you a lot of stress if you clear a place and get everything set up before you bring your new reptile friend home. Here are some guidelines in deciding where to keep your dragons new home:Do not place your dragon in direct sunlight.This can actually kill your bearded dragon. Although sunlight is good for them in the wild, in a domestic environment it quickly becomes deadly. The heat from the sun easily becomes trapped in the terrariumespecially if its glassand the temperature will become life-threatening to your dragon. A good quality UVB lamp is the best way to provide the heat and light they need.Know ahead of time how much room you need. If youve never owned a reptile before, you may not realize how big the tank really is, and the amount of space it takes up may surprise you. The standard size 40-gallon tank is 36 inches long by 18 inches wide by 18 inches deep. You will need a sturdy surface to set it on, so make sure you measure in advance.If you have other pets or small children, make sure the bearded dragons tank is out of their reach. Cats and dogs can kill your dragon. If you cant keep your dragon in a separate room from your cat or dog, make absolutely certain that the enclosure will not topple and that the lid is secure. If you have small children, never let them near the tank unsupervised, and be sure the terrarium is out of their reach. Children can be seriously hurt if they manage to topple the tank, not to mention your dragon could be hurt or killed.At the same time, make sure you can access the tank easily. You will need to clean the tank, take your dragon out for playtime and baths, and give your dragon lots of love, so its best to make sure you can easily get to the tank.Keep the enclosure away from loud noises.Loud noises tend to really upset bearded dragons. For example, if you have a big screen TV that you watch frequently, or if you play electric guitar, or if there is a side of your house where you can hear constant traffic, try to keep your dragon out of earshot.Keep the tank in a place that is light during the day and dark at night. While you will be providing UVB light 12 hours a day for your dragon, they have trouble sleeping if lights are left on at night, so its best to place them in an area that is quiet and dark at night. This is especially important during brumation if your bearded dragon ends up going through that process.Do Not Plan for CohabitationIf you are planning to adopt multiple bearded dragons or if you already have one and are adding to your reptile family, please do not house them together. It is rarely a good idea.Bearded dragons are territorial and could kill each other, especially if you house two males together.If you house two females together, the less dominant of the two could become seriously ill because the more dominant one will take over the food bowl and the basking spot.If you house a male and female together, they will begin to reproduce and you must be prepared to take care of multiple baby dragons.Bearded Dragon Tank Setup: FlooringAnother key component in giving your beardie a comfortable home is choosing the best flooring. There are quite a lot of options available, and unfortunately not all of them are safe. When you think about what flooring you want to use, the most important factor to consider is what is best for your dragon? What will help your dragon feel happy and comfortable in their new home? What will keep them clean and safe? What flooring is safe for them and easy for you to take care of? Lets get to the bottom of it.Some of the very popular options are not safe for your bearded dragon, and some are. Its best to do your research and be fully informed before you make a decision. You can even give your local vet or reptile shelter a call and weigh their opinion as well.Best and Worst Flooring OptionsSubstrate is a hotly debated topic among Dragon Keepers. Many substrates are truly unsafe for bearded dragons for the following reasons:They can cause impaction, eye and nose irritation, and even internal injury.They can also be really difficult to keep free of bacteria and parasites.Live insects can easily hide in substrate.Pro Tip: If you decide to use substrate, you must really do your research and make absolutely sure that you are choosing the safest option for your dragon.Sand is one of the most common substrates that people use for their dragons. But it is very dangerous for your dragon. While sand is part of dragons natural habitat in the desert, the sand that you see for sale at pet stores and online is not Australian desert sand. It can cause gut impaction and can easily be inhaled, causing respiratory issues; not to mention it can also get stuck in your beardies eyes, causing irritation.Pebbles and rocks are a big no as well. These can cause impaction and break your dragons teeth. Walnut shells, for similar reasons, pose an extreme threat to your dragons health.Other substrates are available for bearded dragons as well. These are often made up of some kind of wood chips, calcium powder, coconut fiber, or some kind of edible material. We highly recommend consulting with your vet if you are interested in using this kind of substrate. While the ones made of edible or calcium-infused materials are dangerous, some of the wood options may work well for you depending on your situation.Issues with Safer Substrates for Your Bearded Dragon Tank SetupImpaction & Cleaning.Some substrates including wooden chips are quite absorbent and easy to clean, but there is still some risk of impaction and you must be vigilant about cleaning them when your dragon goes to the bathroom.Moisture retention.The other issue you may run into with these softer, dense substrates is they retain moisture, which can raise the humidity levels in your dragons tank. If you go this route, just use your hygrometer to monitor the humidity.Potential feeding issues.One other thing you need to keep in mind with loose substrate is live insect feedings. Live insects such as crickets, Dubia roaches, and worms will try to escape your bearded dragon during mealtime. This chase can be fun to watch and is part of the natural order of things, but its dangerous in a loose substrate setting.The insects can easily bury themselves in the substrate and hide until long after feeding time. They will either bite your dragon (crickets are notorious for this, and their biting hurts!) or they will eventually die and begin to rot in the tank, causing a smell and posing a threat to your dragons health. If you have loose substrate, use a special designated area away from the substrate for live insect feeding. A large plastic container works quite well for this.More Flooring Options for Your SetupSand mats are not a great option either. They can harm your bearded dragon by scratching them or causing impaction or internal injury when your beardie ingests dislodged pieces.Reptile carpet is a decent option for your dragon. It doesnt cost much, its easy to clean, and most options you will find are designed to prevent odors. You do have to remove it to clean it, so its best to have at least one extra carpet on hand. If you have a baby dragon, you may want to keep more than two carpets since babies go to the bathroom more often than adults.Pro Tip: Some experts advise against using reptile carpet because some types of carpet have a rough surface that can catch on your dragon's nails. If you use carpet, make sure the surface is not too rough or scratchy (and it never hurts to get your vet's opinion on the best substrate to use).Tile is a very popular choice among Dragon Keepers. Dark-colored ceramic and slate tile are ideal choices. Both materials provide your dragon with traction to move around comfortably, and dark colors will prevent the tile from getting cold.Make sure you dont use vinyl or linoleum, which are too slippery for your bearded dragons claws to gain any traction. The other issue with those materials is they retain a lot of heat and there is nowhere for it to escape in your dragons tank, so it can burn your dragon. Be very careful when putting the tile in your bearded dragons tank. It can scrape or break the terrarium floor, especially if its glass. Using a thin towel or newspaper between the floor and the tile can help protect the tanks floor.Clay is a really fun option for your bearded dragon if you have time and are willing to put in a little extra effort to set it up. You can get really creative with it and sculpt an exciting desert-like terrain with burrows, hills, and hideaways.Once you purchase the reptile excavator clay at your local pet store or online, mix it with water and let it dry in the tank. Your dragon can burrow in the clay but it will not break off and cause impaction. The only issue you may run into with clay is every few months you have to remove and replace it, which can be a hassle if you dont have a lot of extra time to take care of that.Newspaper is easily the cheapest option for your bearded dragon. It's a great choice for babiessince theygo to the bathroom a lot and newspaper is incredibly easy to replace.Bearded Dragon Tank Setup: Proper Lights, Heating, and HumidityDragons are cold-blooded creatures native to the Australian desert. They dont generate their own body heat, so they need proper heating and lighting mimicking their natural habitat in order to survive. Poor lighting or heat can cause metabolic bone disease, a very serious condition that warps your dragons skeletal system and inhibits digestion and absorption of nutrients. Metabolic bone disease can paralyze and kill your dragon if left untreated.Here are some things youll need to maintain the proper heat, lighting, and humidity that your dragon needs to stay comfortable and healthy:UVB lamp. Many vets recommend a self ballasted mercury vapor UVB lamp because they emit heat along with UVB rays. Its best to replace the UVB bulb every six months to ensure the best quality rays and heat for your dragon.Heat lamp and UVB bulb. If you will not be using a UVB lamp that emits heat as well as UVB rays, then you will need a heat lamp as well as a UVB bulb.Ceramic heat emitter. You will need this if you are unable to maintain a temperature above 65 degrees in your home at night.Thermometer. To ensure your dragon is getting the proper temperatures at any given time of the day or night, youll want to have a good thermometer on hand. You could place a couple digital thermometers at either end of your bearded dragons tank, or you could use a temperature gun to quickly scan different areas of the tank.Hygrometer. Its helpful to have a hygrometer to measure the humidity in your dragons tank.Once you have the necessary supplies, keep these lighting, heating, and humidity guidelines in mind for your bearded dragon tank setup:UVB exposure.Whether you get a self ballasted UVB lamp or another kind, ensure your dragon gets 12 hours of UVB ray exposure a day.Humidity. The ideal humidity for bearded dragons is 35 to 40% because that mimics the humidity levels in their natural habitat. This is often easy to achieve just by providing adequate ventilation (for example, your glass tank screen lid), placing the water dish away from the basking spot, and not misting your dragons tank too often.Red lights. You may notice in your research that some bearded dragon tanks have a red light on at night. Although many Dragon Keepers choose to do this, its not necessary and can be stressful for your bearded dragon. In the wild, bearded dragons would go to sleep in total darkness, or perhaps under soft moonlight and starlight. Red lights or other night lights you can get for your dragon just arent the same. Dragons have trouble sleeping when there is too much light, especially from a bulb or screen. So its best to avoid adding a red light or night light to your dragons tank.Daytime temperatures. Every dragon needs a basking spot, and this spot should be between 95 and 110 degrees Fahrenheit during the day. Other parts of the tank should be cooler so your dragon can regulate body temperature as needed.Nighttime temperatures. At night, the entire tank should range from 65 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit.Of course, you don't have to keep a basking spot at night.Bearded Dragon Tank Setup: Decor Perhaps the most fun part of setting up your dragons new home is selecting the decor! When it comes to creativity, the skys the limit. Some Dragon Keepers opt for a laid back, simple environment, while others choose an elaborate theme such as exotic desert or tropical rainforest. If you are a first time Dragon Keeper, you may want to keep it simple to start out, but its entirely up to you.Regardless of your style or theme, here are some items to include in your bearded dragon tank setup:Basking log or rock. Your bearded dragon will need a large surface to bask on beneath the heating lamp. A log or rock is perfect for this.Hideaway. For bedtime, brumation, and following the natural instincts of burrowing, your dragon needs a hide. There are plenty of options available so you can find one that matches your tanks style.Things to climb on. Whether its branches, rocks, logs, or some other fixture that matches your decor theme, bearded dragons love to climb on things. Of course, just make sure there is still room on the ground for your dragon as well.Hammock. Bearded dragons love hanging out and lounging in hammocks. Place one in the corner of your tank opposite the heating lamp, and your bearded dragon will thank you.Plants. Many Dragon Keepers enjoy decorating the terrarium with plants, live or fake.Live plants can affect the humidity levels in your dragons tank, so be sure to use your hygrometer often. Keep in mind that your dragon may eat some of the live plants, so its important to only keep live plants and herbs that are safe for your bearded dragon to ingest. Safe plants include:Aloe vera (If your dragon eats too much of this, she may get diarrhea, so just keep an eye on things)Herbs such as rosemary, basil, oregano, and parsley (they may wilt in the humidity so replace them when they begin to go bad)Turtle vineSucculents such as echeveria and haworthiaPrickly pear cacti (with spines removed)Another thing to keep in mind if you are interested in using live plants is that you will have to water and care for them as well as caring for your dragon. If youve never taken care of plants before, you may want to start with a plant outside the terrarium and go from there.Pro Tip: Usually it's safest just to use plastic plants. Make sure they are high quality to minimize the risk of your dragon biting off a piece and choking or becoming impacted. Shallow dishes. For greens, fruits, insects, supplements, and water, youll want at least three or four shallow dishes on hand.Insect tweezers. For live insect feeding, its helpful to have one or two pairs of tweezers on hand. Not only can it be fun to feed your dragon with the tweezers, but it can protect you from insects that can pinch or bite, and its also a good option for those who would rather not touch live bugs with their hands.Container for feeding. If you are using loose substrate or you want to get more up-close and personal when feeding your dragon, or if you simply dont want to unleash live insects into the terrarium and prefer a more contained environment, youll want to have a large, shallow plastic container on hand.Live feeder insects.Whether you are getting a baby, juvenile, or adult bearded dragon, you will need to include live insects in their diet. Crickets and Dubia roaches are the most popularstaple insects, and there are plenty to choose from as treats and supplements. Decide ahead of time what insects you will start with and see how your dragon likes them. And make sure youunderstand how to keep and carefor the insects you choose, too.Healthy bearded dragons can live upwards of ten years with proper care. The terrarium plays a huge role in giving your bearded dragon a healthy, happy life. Now that you know the basics of creating the best bearded dragon tank setup, you can provide your reptile with a home where she can thrive.If you have questions or would like to give feedback, please email us atteam@dragonsdiet.comThere are different types of tanks that you can get for your bearded dragon. Below is a list of the different types of tanks you can get for your dragon:Glass aquariumsMelamine cagesPVC cagesABS cagesVision cagesGlass AquariumsGlass aquariums are probably the most popular type of enclosure for bearded dragons. These inexpensive tanks can be purchased at any local pet store and can sometimes even be found for free. These are great enclosures for bearded dragons and other reptiles.The only problems with glass tanks is that they can be heavy (so once your tank is setup, you probably won't move it) and the glass doesn't hold in the heat as well as other materials. This is fine for bearded dragons, however, many owners say that glass tanks lack of insulation causes their dragon's color to seem a little dull. So if you have a colorful bearded dragon you may want to get a different type of tank.Melamine CagesMelamine cages are made out of melamine board (wood), which can be purchased at your local hardware store. You can build these tanks yourself or you can buy them offline. Bearded dragons love these cages and look amazing in them, since the white boards reflect extra light which makes your dragon happier.The only drawbacks to melamine cages are they are fairly expensive and they are extremely heavy.PVC CagesPVC cages look and work exactly like melamine cages, except they are made of PVC plastic which makes them much lighter so they can be moved. They are more expensive than melamine cages, but generally have a better look since the plastic is smooth and attractive.ABS CagesABS plastic cages look and work exactly like PVC and Vision cages, except they are made of ABS plastic. ABS plastic is very lightweight and sturdy, making reptile cages movable and stackable. Also many reptile enthusiasts claim that ABS cages don't produce the plastic odor that other reptile cages have. We recommend NPI Cages for ABS reptile cages.Vision CagesVision cages are professional cages made from one molded piece of plastic. They are chemical resistant and easy to clean and have heat lamp shrouds built in directly. They are expensive, but many bearded dragon breeders will use these cages since you can stack them on top of each other to save space.If youve ever looked at your bearded dragons tank and thought, This could totally be a miniature Jurassic Parkyoure not alone. Creating a functional, fabulous habitat isnt just about looksits about making your scaly friend feel like royalty. Lets turn that basic tank into a reptilian dreamland. Credit: Supplies and decorationsStyrofoam, dried-out logs, wood, aloe vera plant, lighting, hideouts, bath dish, etc.Difficulty levelModerate In the wild, bearded dragons tend to live in dry and deserted areas with intense sunlight. So, a rocky desert bearded dragon tank can be a wonderful DIY idea. To make a deserted appearance, you can prepare the background with grout, styrofoam, stones, etc. The presence of stones, dried-out logs pieces, and stone desert substrate make an ideal environment for your bearded dragons. You can fully implement this rocky desert tank design idea by maintaining the temperature and humidity level. You can install a UVB tube light and a 75w UVA basking light. Make sure to keep a low-temperature area where the temperature can remain within 75 degrees Fahrenheit. On the other hand, these beardies rely on high heat. So, the high heat level of the tank should be within 95-100 degrees Fahrenheit. Credit: Supplies and decorationsA glass tank, homemade basking rocks, hammocks, live plants, wood, branches, water dish, lighting, etc.Difficulty levelEasy The reason behind naming this tank as a home-sweet-home beardie enclosure is having all facilities like home. This tank setup idea includes different dcor items for their recreation. In this tank, homemade basking rocks are available where your bearded dragon can enjoy the warmth. Besides, there are hammocks for your bearded dragons. A few hideouts, climbing branches, and live plants will make the tank setup comfortable. A shortcoming of this enclosure idea can be the lacking of the substrate. You shouldnt forget to install a proper lighting system. Since it is a glass tank, the tank may hold the heat of the lighting. Credit: Supplies and decorationsSand, fake grass, rock dcor, hammock, basking light, bath dish, etc.Difficulty levelModerate This tank setup idea makes you DIY a cozy place for your bearded dragons. You can add two types of bearded dragon substrate in this enclosure. Since sand is a vital part of the wild habitation of beardies, you must add sand to one part of the tank. On the other portion, you can lay down fake grasses. Then, you should add some hideouts, hammocks, bath dishes, and rock dcor for your beardies. Do not forget to add a basking light to this cozy bearded dragon tank. Credit: Supplies and decorationsPascal backgrounds, substrate, live or fake foliage, rocks, UVB lighting, etc.Difficulty levelHard To make a Bearded dragon enclosure look classy, you need to use the maximum space of the tank. A Pascal background will change the mood of the environment. You can choose Pascal backgrounds of mountain area, desert area, beachy area, etc. This amazing background can remove the boredom of the sterile-looking white walls of the tank. Some homemade basking rocks and dried-out logs can bring out the rocky feel of the tank. Besides, you should add a cave, dcor items, and live or fake foliage for your beardies. Also, you can add safe bearded dragon substrate where your beardies can dig out. You must provide the basking opportunity for your bearded dragons. Thats why, you should not forget to add UVB lighting. Credit: Supplies and decorationsHammock, logs, plants bath dish, water dish, basking area rocks, lighting, etc.Difficulty levelModerate This indoor playground terrarium idea gives the entire bearded dragon tank the vibe of the playground. There is a basking area, hammock, wooden dcor items, bath dish, and plants for your beardies. It seems like your bearded dragons can rest in one corner where the hammock is placed. Then, your beardie can sit upon the log piece of another corner of this playground. Providing UVB lighting can ensure the optimal heat for your beardies. But, this indoor playground bearded dragon terrarium comes with one shortcoming. It is its lacking of humidity maintenance. Due to the lack of live plants, you might face difficulty in maintaining the optimal humidity level. Also, there is no substrate for your beardies. However, you can always modify any idea while setting up your bearded dragon enclosure. Credit: Supplies and decorationsBranches, logs, plants, skull dcor, rocks, lighting, etc.Difficulty levelModerate This majestic Bearded dragon wild tank will portray a jungle-like appearance. A large portion of the enclosure is filled with plants, branches, and logs. In this jungle part of the tank, you should add some sand substrate for your beardies at the bottom. To take your DIY idea to another level, you can include artificial dcor items. If youre into gothic items, you can choose skull dcor items. Your reptile pet can explore and hide in the human skull dcor. ThisThis skull dcor brings attraction into your Bearded dragons tank. Moreover, you can create a basking area with a pile of rocks. Your beardie can enjoy the warmth of lighting by sitting above the rocks. Credit: Supplies and decorationsSubstrate, branches, tiki hut, rocks, logs, live plants, UVB lighting, etc.Difficulty levelModerate If youre a fan of the DragonVale game, you will surely like the idea of setting up a fantasy park for your bearded dragons. However, well keep this Beardies Dragon Vale tank setup idea simple. Although theres a debate about using the substrate for beardies, you can use a mix of sand, clay, and topsoil at the bottom layer. Itll give your Bearded dragon tank a naturalistic look. This Beardies Dragon Vale also contains a large branch, some rocks, logs, aloe vera plants, etc. The most attractive part of this Dragon Vale is the tiki hut. This tiki hut will surely catch the attention of your bearded dragons. Also, you can create a basking area in one corner of the enclosure. Credit: Supplies and decorationsWood logs, live or fake plants, UVB lighting, food bowl, water dish, etc.Difficulty levelModerate This wood logs-styled tank idea will be an amazing and cozy enclosure set up for your bearded dragon. In this tank setup, you need to place a few wood logs. Position these logs at some angle. These will be great places for your beardies to chill and rest. You need to add light sources on one corner of the enclosure. Your beardies can use those wood logs as the seats of their basking area. So, the other side will be a shady area for your bearded dragons. You can keep some live or artificial plants in the tank. A food bowl can keep your Bearded dragon enclosure clean. However, the absence of substrate may make the wood logs styled Bearded dragon tank incomplete. Credit: Supplies and decorationsOld cabinet, wooden structures, hammock, water bowl, etc.Difficulty levelModerate Do you have any old cabinets that you want to throw away? Then, lets DIY the wasted cabinet to make your beardies terrarium. Itll save your expense to buy a new tank. Since it is a tall terrarium, the basking light will be too high for your beardies. As a result, your Bearded dragon may not get the proper warmth of the UVB lighting. So, you need to set up a hammock right under the basking light. Now, the question will be how my beardie will reach up to the hammock. For this, you should set up some wooden pieces in inclined arrangements. Make a smooth path for your beardies to climb the hammock. You can spread smooth carpet grass over the wooden structures. Also, you should add a water bowl and dcor items to this cabinet terrarium. Credit: Supplies and decorationsCave, plants, lighting, etc.Difficulty levelEasy This tank idea features a nice cove in your Bearded dragons enclosure. Your beardie can take a rest in this arched cove that is adjacent to the wall. Along with the cave, you can bring greenery by adding some plants. In Beardies Cove paradise terrarium, your bearded dragon can get sufficient space to explore. Make sure to add UVB lighting in the tank. Otherwise, your beardie will miss the opportunity of basking. Credit: Supplies and decorationsA large tank, Beardie basket, basking rocks, lighting, etc.Difficulty levelEasy You will surely love this Bearded dragon tank idea if youre a minimalistic lover. This minimalistic Bearded dragon tank focuses on simplicity. You can add backgrounds to the walls of your Bearded dragon tank. This tank idea features a bearded dragon basket. In addition, you can create a homemade basking area with rocks. The assemblies of this Bearded dragon tank are easy to maintain. After installing UVB lighting, your Bearded dragon will get all of its basic items. Do not forget to maintain optimal temperature and humidity levels. Since there are no live plants, you should have extra concerns to maintain the humidity level. Credit: Supplies and decorationsSubstrate, rocks, UVB lighting, water bowl, grass plants, etc.Difficulty levelEasy Inspired by the wild habitats of beardies, you can implement this desert-style Bearded dragon terrarium. Although the entire setup may look intimidating, your beardies will get a home-like environment. The experts suggest keeping a layer of substrate in your bearded dragon enclosure. You can choose among paper towels, sand, wood chip, reptile carpet, or a mixture of these substrates. Keeping sand or soil can give the terrarium a desert vibe. To add more features of a desert, you need to arrange differently shaped rocks. At one corner of the tank, you can fix a UVB lighting. Now, your beardie will not get deprived of the basking light. Another feature of this tank setup idea is minimal foliage. Since you want to make a desert-style Bearded dragon terrarium, you should go for less plants. Credit: Supplies and decorationsLogs, basking rocks, cave, substrate, thermometer, lighting, etc.Difficulty levelModerate This arid tank idea features a desert-like environment for your Bearded dragons. Like the wild habitat of your beardies, this Bearded dragon enclosure will portray a realistic dry environment with wood and sand. Thats why you need to include props of wooden formation. You can add logs, wooden caves, driftwood, and basking rocks for your beardies. So, your beardies will get lots of places to hide and explore. Since you need to recreate an arid habitat, there will be no plants in this tank idea. Do not forget to keep a water dish in your Bearded Dragon rocky bottom tank. In addition, this tank idea suggests you keep the substrate at the bottom of the tank. Credit: Supplies and decorationsA large tank, log, a readymade or homemade cove, lighting, etc.Difficulty levelEasy You can make a simple Bearded dragon terrarium by making a cove inside the tank. All you need is to include the basic required items for your beardies. The cove will provide a cozy and comfortable room for taking rest for your Bearded dragons. You can also add a log inclined to the cove. This tank idea suggests adding no substrate and plants. So, your Bearded dragons will get plenty of room to play and explore. Make sure to create a dry and humid environment in your Bearded dragon terrarium. Credit: Supplies and decorationsSubstrate hammock, fake plants, basking rocks, UVB lighting, bridge hammock, etc.Difficulty levelHard If you want to make something eye-soothing, you must try this tank setup idea. In this recreation room-styled beardies tank, your beardie will get all luxury to chill in captivity. At one corner of the tank, you need to add a reptile corner hideout. Otherwise, you can DIY homemade basking rocks for your pet beardies. In addition, a hammock will rise the beauty of this recreation room-styled Beardies terrarium. Place the hammock at such a height to become readily available for your bearded dragons. At another corner, you can lay aquarium grass at the bottom. Add some logs and rocks to bring a more naturalistic vibe. To bring perfection, this tank idea suggests including a bridge hammock. You need to connect two corners of the hammock on two walls of the tank. Finally, you can add some fake plants to your Bearded dragon terrarium. Add some pictures of your lovely beardies onto the wall in the background. Credit: Supplies and decorationsCave, hammock, log, rocks, plants, basking rocks, basking light, etc.Difficulty levelModerate This Bearded dragon tank idea recreates a simple and cozy home for your pet beardies. You need to bring all essential items for your bearded dragons in this cozy home-styled enclosure. Your bearded dragon will get a cave to hide in one corner of the tank. Another required luxury for your bearded dragons is their basking area. You can DIY homemade basking rocks. Then, you need to set up these basking rocks under the basking light. To make this enclosure a home, a rope hammock can bring the ultimate perfection. You should place some rocks before the hammock. These rocks will help your Bearded dragons climb the hammock. So, this cozy Bearded dragon home has the warmth and facilities that your Beardies demand. Finally, you can add some hanging plants and log into your Bearded dragon enclosure. Credit: Supplies and decorationsA large tank, UVB light, basking rocks, logs, water dish, etc.Difficulty levelEasy The assembly of this Bearded dragon tank is pretty easy to set up. You need to add a few basic items for your Bearded dragons. Thats why this tank setup is simple to maintain. This tank idea shows keeping some basking rocks at one corner of the tank. You need to install the basking light in that corner. To help your Bearded dragons get basked, you should keep some dried wooden logs. Your Beardie will climb over these props to get their required vitamin D. There will be a shady corner in another part of this tank. You can have one or two tub plants. There will be no dcor accessories, excess foliage, and substrate. So, you can pick this tank design idea if you want to set up a simple Bearded dragon tank. Credit: Supplies and decorationsLogs, cave, rocks, hammock, UVB lighting, water dish, etc.Difficulty levelModerate Do you want to make your Bearded dragon enclosure look picture-perfect? Then, this tank design idea must be for you. By adding all significant and fancy items, you can make your perfect Bearded dragon dorm. Make two areas within the tank by the warmth variation. One portion will be the high-temperature area. Another one will be the low-temperature area. In the high-temperature area, there will be UVB lighting. You can keep a hammock to help your beardies bask under the lighting. In addition, you can keep logs, wooden caves, water dishes, fake plants, etc. To replicate a desert area, you can keep one cactus plant in this perfect Bearded dragon dorm. Credit: Supplies and decorationsSubstrate, wooden caves, rocks, logs, plants, UVB lighting, etc.Difficulty levelModerate Your Beardies will surely find this wooden cave terrarium awesome since there are lots of accessories. It looks like a tidy home with all the refreshment facilities. In this tank setup idea, the layout shows two sections at the bottom of the tank. These sections are divided for laying substrates. You need to keep a small section empty without any substrate. Then, you can start placing wooden caves, logs, rocks, and plants. Your Beardie can hide and take a rest in those wooden caves. Afterward, you should adjust the lighting at one corner of the tank. As a result, the Bearded dragon terrarium will be divided into warm and cool corners. To help your beardies enjoy basking, you should fix a hammock and place some rocks. Credit: Supplies and decorationsHomemade den, pyramid, bones, skull, UVB lighting, etc.Difficulty levelHard As you can see, the landscape of this classy desert tank resembles the natural habitat of Bearded dragons. In this tank design idea, you can DIY a huge den and half-den for your beardies. DIYing a homemade pyramid can save you cost a bit. Moreover, there are dcor items for your Bearded dragons to climb. To add more beauty, you can add some skulls and bones. The entire tank will give your Beardies a vibe of the desert. The only thing that may cause risks is the substrate. To save your Bearded dragons from impaction, you must choose a safe substrate. Credit: Supplies and decorationsTopsoil, sand, heat lamp, UVB lighting, fluorescent lighting, plants, cave, basking rocks, etc.Difficulty levelHard A bioactive Bearded dragon enclosure is a perfect tank that any pet Beardie will surely love. The addition of substrate will make this enclosure look like a miniature version of Savannas or woodlands. These can be a good mixture of topsoil and sand. Your Beardie will love to dig these substrates with their claws. To keep the tank warm, you need to fix the heat lamp and heat projector. There is a cave for your Beardies to take shelter from the heat. Moreover, you need to create basking areas with the help of wood and rocks. Although you should fix fluorescent and daylight bulbs, you need to add UVB lighting. Finally, you should add some Jade plants and other dcor items into this bioactive enclosure. Credit: Supplies and decorationsA tall tank, skull, rocks, plants, water dish, UVB lighting, etc.Difficulty levelModerate If youre a fan of Jurassic World, you should try this JJurassicpark-themed Bearded dragon terrarium. To implement this tank design, you need to choose a tall tank. Then, you need to add all items that recreate Jurassic Park within the enclosure. For this, you need to add a large skull, lots of rocks, logs, branches, plants, etc. The large skull will be a beautiful dcor piece that is popular for its several access points. Your Beaedies can feel safe to hide inside the skull dcor. Since it is a tall tank, your Beardies can not receive direct warmth from the basking light. Hence, you should arrange the logs and rocks in such a way that helps your Beardies climb up to the tank. Finally, you should maintain optimal humidity and temperature level for your Bearded dragons. Credit: Supplies and decorationsSubstrate, plants, log, UVB lighting, etc.Difficulty levelEasy This tank idea refers to a simple setup. You need to add two types of substrate to DIY this comfy living terrarium. One of them can be coco peat, and another type of substrate can be ceramic beach pebbles. You should keep a large log in the center of the tank. Alongside the log, you should keep a tree that creates an opportunity for your Beardies to climb. Do not forget to add basking light, heat lamp, and thermometer to obtain ideal environmental parameters. Credit: Supplies and decorationsSubstrate, wooden cave, logs, hammock, food bowl, water dish, etc.Difficulty levelHard Firstly, you need to choose a large enclosure depending on the number and age of your Bearded dragons. Keeping a background will recreate the vibe of a jungle. The Jungle terrarium will be incomplete without substrate. So, you must keep a layer of topsoil or other substrate at the bottom of the tank. Then, you should add some wooden caves, logs, and barks to create a naturalistic environment. In addition, you can keep a hammock in the basking area. Your Beardie can chill over the hammock while enjoying vitamin D. If you want some cleanliness, you can keep a dish bowl. Also, you should add a water bowl for your Bearded dragons. Credit: Supplies and decorationsSubstrate, hanging plants, climbing ledge, rocks, wooden cave, food bowl, etc.Difficulty levelModerate You might wonder the reason behind naming this tank as a Green enclosure. Thats because you will find greenery while taking a glance at this enclosure. But, Bearded dragons hale from the dry and deserted environments. Thats why you need to add some hanging plants to this green enclosure. Your Beardie will surely live it to find some opportunities to climb inside the tank. In addition, this tank design idea includes a climbing ledge, a rock cave, and a food bowl. The climbing ledge will help your Beardie sit under the UVB light. However, you must monitor the temperature and humidity level of your Bearded dragon green enclosure. Credit: Supplies and decorationsHammock, basking rocks, cave, rocks, skull dcor, plants, etc.Difficulty levelModerate Who doesnt love a tiptop habitat? This tidy Beardies room tank design implies a systematic arrangement of dcor items. You need to keep large logs on one corner of the enclosure. Then, you should set up the bridge hammock by joining its two corners with two walls. Your Beardie will surely enjoy this soft hammock. Moreover, the appearance of this bridge hammock will increase the beauty of your Bearded dragon enclosure. To complete this tank setup, you need to add skull dcor items, a DIY homemade cave, a climbing ledge, a basking area, and plants. Since there is no substrate, the tank will remain clean. But, you can add some substrate towels on one side of the tank. Credit: Supplies and decorationsRocks, bridge-hammock, plants, UVB lighting, etc.Difficulty levelModerate The main attraction of this tank design is a bridge hammock. Instead of buying a readymade bridge hammock, you can also DIY this dcor item. This bridge hammock is a suitable dcor piece that helps your Bearded dragons during shedding. Since your beardies can rub their bodies against the hammock, their pores will not get clogged. Moreover, your Beardie can chill over this bridge-hammock as its basking place. Also, this tank design idea includes plants, rocks, and other essential stuff. You must monitor the temperature and humidity level of this bridge-hammock tank. Credit: Supplies and decorationsA large enclosure, wood logs, UVB lighting, fluorescent lighting, substrate, etc.Difficulty levelEasy To level up the game of DIYing, you can choose this idea of a Bearded dragon tower. For this, you need to choose a huge enclosure that should resemble a tower. Now, this Bearded dragon tower has a layer of substrate for your Beardies to dig in. This Bearded dragon tower provides huge space for your pet Beardies to explore the tank. You need to add some wood logs in the middle of this tower. But, your Beardies may miss a shady corner in this Bearded dragon tower. Also, there is no presence of flora in this Bearded dragon tower design. However, you can always modify the tank design according to your ideas. Credit: Supplies and decorationsWood logs, plants, UVB lighting, ladder, etc.Difficulty levelEasy This tank design is absolutely perfect due to including all necessary items required for your Beardies. Due to having UVB lighting at one corner, the other part of the tank becomes a low-temperature area. Your Beardie can take a rest on the swing placed in that shady area. Moreover, the addition of some plants brings out a natural vibe of this enclosure. If your Beardie needs to bask too close to the source, you can place a ladder dcor in this tank design. A temperature and humidity-regulated tank is bound to be a comfortable place to thrive for your pet Beardies. Credit: Supplies and decorationsDriftwood, logs, UVB lighting, water dish, etc.Difficulty levelModerate This tank design shows the amazing assembly of the props. The enclosure is full of logs, branches, and driftwood. You can add a miniature version of a sofa for your Beardies. Your Bearded dragon will find lots of room to roam around in this astonishing Beardies room. Make sure to monitor the temperature level of this tank. Credit: Supplies and decorationsLogs, hammock, wood ledge, cove, UVB lighting, plants, etc.Difficulty levelModerate Lets go for an amazing tank setup for your Beardies with a cove and hammock. In the layout of this tank, you need to create a cove at one corner of the tank. This cove is a suitable place to hide or take a rest for your Beardies. You can DIY this cove with plywood or rocks. Your Beardie can consider this cove as the shady corner of the enclosure. On the other part of the tank, you can keep wood

Basking bulbOn one side of the tank, please setup a basking light bulb that will generate heat. Under the basking light, you need to place a basking rock or ledge that your dragon will lay on for basking. Temperatures during the day should reach 92-110 degrees Fahrenheit (33-43 Celsius) in a hot spot, and 75-85 F (23.8-29 C) in a cool spot.For a basking bulb, you can use a halogen flood bulb like this, reptile basking bulbs like this or other bright household bulbs. Choose a bright white light, not soft white, which will irritate the eyes.Bright light stimulates bearded dragons to bask and stay active. What is more, you will need to house a basking bulb in a dome fixture like this, to prevent any burns and to direct the light & heat towards your dragon. Lamp clamps or an adjustable stand like this are optional for comfort and installation.Dome fixture for a basking bulb (on the picture, 2 bulbs are used)Basking light is crucial for heating (immune system functioning, digesting food, staying warm etc.) and promoting interest in eating and other activities. Wattage of a bulb will depend on a size of your tank and type of a bulb.Halogen flood lights tend to get hot (if its not an energy saving one) a 50-60watt bulb can be enough to heat a 55 gallon tank. For reptile basking spot lights you will often need a 100-150watt bulb. Reaching ideal temperatures is a lot of trial and error work.Ceramic heat emitter for night time heatFor night time heat, please dont use under tank heaters. Bearded dragons dont feel heat with their belly properly, and can easily burn themselves. If temperatures fall lower than 65F (18.3 Celsius), get a low wattage ceramic heat emitter instead. It wont produce any color and wont disturb your dragon (dont choose colored bulbs).Please read this post on lighting and heating to get a full detailed guide on setting up lights (new tab). You will also find how to position, required distances from lights and more info in that post.#2: UVB light UVB light is a MUST for your bearded dragons tank. It will help produce and utilize vitamin D3 and calcium in the body. Without it, your bearded dragon wont eat or do other activities, and will develop serious health issues such as MBD (Metabolic Bone Disease).For UVB light, choose a tube UVB that runs 50-70% of the tank. Long UVB tube will give out light evenly throughout the tank. Your bearded dragon needs a high output 10.0-12.0 UVB tube, such as this T5 high output UVB tube.T8 tubes are not as strong for bearded dragons, but if you have a smaller tank, you can choose it for the time being and place it in a hood with a reflector.You will need to house the UVB tube in a hood, preferably with a reflector like this. T5 will benefit from a reflector, but T8 requires a hood with a reflector. Once you move to a bigger tank, only choose T5 or other 10.0-12.0 reptile UVB tube light.A hood with a reflector to house a T5 UVB tubePlease note the length of the tube and choose hood for it. A 36 inch hood will fit a 34 inch T5 tube. Reflector will allow light to be dispersed more efficiently. You will need to install the UVB tube near the basking bulb, so that your dragon can absorb UVB while basking. If your bearded dragons tank is still small or less than 40 gallons, use a UVB bulb instead, as a tube will be too bright for your dragons eyes. Dont choose any coiled bulbs, though.Once you set basking bulbs and other electrical devices, you will need to control and automate the system.First of all, you will need a thermostat like this, that will control temperatures and turn off any devices if they reach maximum temperatures. This is important to ensure that your dragon doesnt overheat.Secondly, you will need to automate the daylight cycle (photoperiod), which are hours of daylight and darkness. In general, during warmer months, you will need to have 12-13 hours of daylight vs. 11-12 hrs of night.While you can turn the lights on and off manually, its better to automate it. For this, you will need a timer or a power center like this. With a power center, you can have 4 devices that are constantly turned on, and 4 that will turn on/off at specific times. This will help create a schedule, too.Power centerThirdly, you will need to control and check temperatures and humidity in the tank. To check temperatures, you will need to get digital thermometers with a probe like this. Just stick on thermometers tend to be very inaccurate, especially analog ones, so choose digital ones with probes.Thermometer + hydrometer with probesPlease install 1 thermometer in a basking spot, and one in a cool spot. You must create a temperature gradient so that your dragon can move there in case it gets too hot.On top of that, please invest in a handheld infrared thermometer like this, that will allow to check temperatures in any spot by standing 1.5-2 inches (around 4-5 cm) away from it (not further or closer).Hygrometer (device to check humidity) usually comes with a thermometer, but if not, please get it separately. Bearded dragons require 20-40% humidity and not higher.There are important accessories that you need to add, and some are optional.First of all, you will need to get a rock ledge or a platform such as this ledge, that your dragon will lay on to bask and rest.Food and water bowls will be needed too. You can skip having water in a water dish all the time, because dragons dont tend to drink standing water. However, you can have a small water bowl and your dragon might soak in it. Make sure its not too deep for your dragon.To climb and rest, please add branches such as this Mopani wood or others. Bearded dragons also tend to enjoy laying on hammocks like this.Another optional decoration is a terrarium background, that can eliminate reflections on the front glass (some dragons dont like reflections). It will also add a unique look to the tank. There are many designs, such as this desert landscape. Please note the size when buying.Next, you need to add some real/fake plants or flowers in a tank. This is especially important to let your dragon hide behind some structures when it feels the needs to do so.As bearded dragons tend to chew and eat plants, be very careful when choosing plants. Its the best idea to either pick a safe to eat greens/flowers. Or, to use very simple plastic ones with no small objects that could come off. You can read a post on best safe plants to use in a bearded dragons tank here (new tab). Other important accessories are hides. Your bearded dragon will need at least 1 hide to hide in when it feels the need to. These can be wooden logs, caves and others. Apart from an actual hide, you will also need to create hiding spots between accessories, under plants etc.If your bearded dragon starts hiding all the time, you will need to make a hide with an open top, so that your dragon can get enough UVB.Another optional addition is a terrarium cabinet/stand, to put the tank on. If you dont have anything to put the tank on, you might invest in a stand that also features a cabinet like this.Terrarium stand with storageA tank an adult will need a 50-70 gallon tank or largerSubstrateBasking bulb(s) for heatFor night time heat, a low wattage ceramic heat emitterLamp clamp or a stand (optional)10.0-12.0 UVB tube light (preferably T5 HO ReptiSun)Velcro tape to mount UVB tube inside a tank (optional)Dome fixture to house a basking bulbA hood to house a UVB tube light (preferably with a reflector)ThermostatTimer or power center for automationThermometers and humidity gauges (x2 each)A handheld infrared thermometerBasking platform/rock/ledgeBranchesHammock (optional)HidesFood and water bowlsFor cleaning sprays, steam cleaner, bucket, sprayer etc.You can read this post to learn about cleaning a bearded dragon tank and which supplies you will need for safe and non-toxic cleaning. Come see how I built my 120 gallon bearded dragon tank and what I did to make it extra special for my scaly friend.Checkout this video:Introduction Building a bearded dragon tank doesnt have to be complicated or expensive. In fact, with a little effort and some basic materials, you can easily create a great home for your reptilian friend.Before you begin, its important to have a good understanding of the needs of your bearded dragon. These lizards are native to Australia and require warm temperatures and lots of space to thrive. A standard 120 gallon tank is a good size for one or two adult dragons, and will give them plenty of room to grow.Heres what youll need to get started:-A 120 gallon tank -A sturdy stand or table -A basking light -A UVB light -A thermostat -Crickets or other food (live or frozen) -Water dish -Rocks and hiding in-his-cave/>hiding placesWith these supplies on hand, youre ready to get started building your tank. Follow the steps below to create a safe and comfortable home for your bearded dragonWhat Youll Need Building a 120 gallon bearded dragon tank is a daunting task, but it can be done with the proper planning. Heres what youll need to get started: -120 gallon tank -Substrate (we recommend sand) -Hide box -Cave -Decorations (driftwood, live plants, etc.) -Lighting (UVB and basking bulb) eating or-moving/>eating (under tank heater and/or ceramic heat emitter) With these supplies, youll be well on your way to creating a safe and comfortable environment for your bearded dragon to thrive.Step One: Choose Your Location Bearded dragons are one of the most popular reptile pets. They are friendly, hardy, and relatively easy to care for. One of the most important things you need to provide for your bearded dragon is a large enough tank. A 120 gallon tank is a good size for an adult bearded dragon.Building a 120 gallon bearded dragon tank is not as difficult as it may seem. With a little planning and some basic materials, you can easily build a custom tank that will be the perfect home for your pet.Here are the steps to follow to build a 120 gallon bearded dragon tank:Step One: Choose Your Location The first step is to choose the location for your tank. You need to find a spot that is big enough to accommodate the size of your tank and that has good lighting. Bearded dragons need UVB lighting to stay healthy, so make sure that the location you choose has good natural light or that you have a good artificial light source set up.Step Two: Gather Your Materials Once you have chosen the location for your tank, you need to gather all of the materials you will need to build it. You will need glass or acrylic panels, silicone sealant, screws or nails, and something to use as a frame for the panels (such as wooden boards). You will also need sandpaper, a drill, and some basic tools.Step Three: Build the Frame The next step is to build the frame for your tank. If you are using wood, cut it into pieces that will fit together to form a rectangle that is 8 feet long and 4 feet wide. If you are using PVC pipe, cut it into pieces that will fit together to form a rectangle that is 8 feet long and 4 feet wide. Once you have the frame assembled, use sandpaper to smooth any rough edges.Step Four: Attach the Panels Once the frame is built, its time to attach the panels. If you are using glass panels, use silicone sealant to attach them to the frame. If you are using acrylic panels, use screws or nails to attach them to the frame. Make sure that all of the panel edges are sealed with silicone or caulking so that there are no gaps where water can leak out.Step Five: Drill Holes for Drainage and Aeration Once all of the panels are in place, drill holes in the bottom of the tank for drainage and aeration. The holes should be large enough so that water can drain out easily but not so large that sand or gravel can escape through them. Be sure to smooth any sharp edges around the holes so that your bearded dragon does not hurt itself on themStep Two: Assemble Your TankAfter you have gathered all of your materials, it is time to start assembling your tank. This process is not difficult, but it is important to take your time and make sure that everything is level and secure.1. Start by attaching the legs to the bottom of the tank. Make sure that they are evenly spaced and that the tank is level before moving on.2. Next, attach the silicone sealant to the top edge of the tank. Be sure to smooth it out so that there are no gaps or air bubbles.3. Once the sealant has dried, it is time to attach the glass panels. Start at one end and work your way around, making sure that each panel is level and secure.4. Finally, add any decorations that you want in your tank. Be sure to not overcrowd the space and leave enough room for your bearded dragon to move around freely.Step Three: Add Your SubstrateBearded dragons are native to Australia and their habitat consists of a wide range of different terrain types including sandy desert, rocky outcrops, woodlands and even rainforests. As such, they are used to living on a wide variety of substrates including sand, soil, mulch, rocks and dead leaves. In captivity, it is important to provide your dragon with a substrate that is safe for them to consume and that will also help to maintain their natural digging and foraging behaviors.There are a wide variety of substrates available on the market, but not all of them are suitable for bearded dragons. Some common substrates that should be avoided include Play sand: This type of sand is often sold in pet stores as an all natural substrate for reptiles. However, it is actually made from grinding down rocks and can contain high levels of silica which can be harmful to your bearded dragon if ingested. Walnut shells: These are commonly used as a substrate for hermit crabs but can be harmful to bearded dragons if ingested. Cat litter: This is another common reptile substrate but should be avoided as it can contain harmful chemicals and clay particles which can cause digestive issues if ingested.So what is the best substrate for a beardie tank? We recommend using either: Reptile carpet: This is a type of plastic mesh that can be easily cleaned and disinfected. It is also safe for your dragon to consume if they should happen to nibble on it. Paper towels: Yes, you read that correctly! Paper towels make an excellent substrate for bearded dragons as they are absorbent, easy to clean and completely safe for your dragon to consume.Step Four: Create Your Hides Bearded dragons are shy animals by nature and in the wild will spend most of their time in hiding. It is therefore important that you provide your pet with plenty of hiding places within their enclosure Hides can be made from a variety of materials such as wood, cork bark, or hollowed-out logs. You can also purchase commercially made reptile hides. Be sure to place the hides at various levels within the tank so your bearded dragon can choose its favorite spot.Step Five: Add Your Plants Now that your tank is set up, its time to start thinking about what kind of plants you want to put in it. Bearded dragons are native to arid regions of Australia, so theyre used to living in environments with very little vegetation. As such, theyre not particularly picky about the type of plants you put in their tank. In fact, most bearded dragons will be just as happy with fake plants as they would be with real ones.That being said, there are still a few things you should keep in mind when choosing plants for your bearded dragons tank. First and foremost, you need to make sure that the plants you choose are safe for your beardie to eat. Many common houseplants and even some flowers can be poisonous if ingested, so its important to do your research before adding anything to your tank.Once youve found some safe plants for your bearded dragon, the next step is to decide which ones are best suited for their habitat. If you want your beardie to feel like theyre right at home, then try to choose plants that are native to Australia or that at least resemble the types of plants they would find in the wild. Some good examples include eucalyptus trees, bottlebrush trees, and desert rose bushes.Finally, youll need to make sure that the plants you choose are appropriate for the size of your bearded dragons tank. If you have a small tank, then its probably best to stick with smaller plants like succulents or cacti. On the other hand, if you have a larger tank, then you can go ahead and add some bigger plants like ficus trees or palms. Just make sure that whatever you choose doesnt crowd out yourbeardies basking spot or hide their food from view.Step Six: Set Up Your Lighting Now that your basking area is prepared, you will need to set up your lighting. Bearded dragons need exposure to both ultraviolet B (UVB) rays and heat in order to stay healthy. You will need to purchase a special reptile bulb that emits UVB rays in order to provide your pet with the necessary exposure.There are two main types of bulbs that emit UVB rays: fluorescent and mercury vapor. Fluorescent bulbs are less expensive but need to be replaced more often than mercury vapor bulbs. Mercury vapor bulbs are more expensive but will last longer. You will also need to purchase a basking bulb, which emits heat but no UVB rays.Your bearded dragon tank should have two light fixtures: one for the basking bulb and one for the UVB bulb. The basking bulb should be placed on one end of the tank so that your pet can move between the warmth of the basking area and the cooler temperature of the rest of the tank. The UVB bulb should be placed on the other end of the tank, as close to the basking area as possible.Step Seven: Add Your Dragon! After your tank is all set up, youll be able to add your dragon! Bearded dragons are social creatures and do best in pairs or groups, so consider adding more than one if you have the space. If youre installing a 120 gallon tank, you should be able to comfortably house two to three dragons.Your dragon will need a place to bask, so make sure there is a large, flat rock near the heat lamp. You can also add some live plants to the tank for added humidity and Hideouts for your pet to sleep in.Most importantly, watch your dragon closely for the first few days to make sure it is adjusting well to its new home. If you have any concerns, dont hesitate to contact a reptile specialist.ConclusionNow that you have your bearded dragon tank, its time to add some furnishings! Be sure to include plenty of places for your dragon to hide, bask, and climb. A basking spot should be provided near the top of the tank so your dragon can thermoregulate properly. Live plants can also be added to the tank for aesthetics and to provide your dragon with a natural source of humidity. Finally, fill the tank with appropriate substrate, such as sand or reptile carpet, and add some water dishes. it comes to setting up a bearded dragon tank, choosing the right enclosure is crucial. The tank should provide enough space for the bearded dragon to move around while also ensuring that it feels safe and secure. Here are some key factors to consider when choosing the right tank for your bearded dragon.Tank Size and MaterialBearded dragons require a lot of space to move around, so its important to choose a tank that is large enough. A 120-gallon tank is a good starting point, but larger tanks are always better. The tank should be made of sturdy materials that can withstand the bearded dragons weight and activity level. Glass and PVC are two common materials used for bearded dragon tanks.Glass vs. Wood EnclosuresGlass tanks are a popular choice for bearded dragon owners because they allow for easy viewing and provide good insulation. However, glass tanks can be heavy and difficult to move. Wood enclosures are another option, and they can be customized to fit the bearded dragons needs. However, wood enclosures can be more difficult to clean and may not provide as much insulation as glass tanks.Location and Space RequirementsThe location of the tank is also important. The tank should be placed in an area that is free from drafts and direct sunlight. It should also be placed in an area where the bearded dragon can feel safe and secure. The tank should be elevated to prevent other pets or children from disturbing the bearded dragon. Finally, the tank should have enough space to accommodate the bearded dragons accessories, such as a basking spot and hiding spot.In summary, choosing the right tank for your bearded dragon is crucial for its health and well-being. When selecting a tank, be sure to consider the size and material of the enclosure, as well as the location and space requirements. By taking the time to choose the right tank, you can create a safe and comfortable habitat for your bearded dragon.Creating a Suitable Habitat SelectionChoosing the right substrate is essential for creating a comfortable and healthy habitat for your bearded dragon. There are several options available, including sand, reptile carpet, tiles, and paper towels. However, its important to avoid using loose substrates like sand as they can cause impaction if ingested. Reptile carpet, tiles, and paper towels are all excellent options as they are easy to clean and dont pose any health risks to your pet.Temperature ControlMaintaining the right temperature is crucial for the health of your bearded dragon. Youll need to provide a basking spot with a temperature of around 100-110F and a cooler area with a temperature of around 80-85F. To achieve this, you can use a ceramic heat emitter or a heating pad. Its important to monitor the temperature regularly using a thermometer to ensure it stays within the appropriate range.Humidity and VentilationBearded dragons require a specific level of humidity and ventilation to stay healthy. You can maintain the proper humidity level by misting the enclosure regularly and providing a water dish. Its also important to ensure there is adequate ventilation to prevent the buildup of harmful bacteria and mold. You can achieve this by adding vents or using a hygrometer to monitor the humidity level.Overall, creating a suitable habitat for your bearded dragon involves careful consideration of several factors, including substrate selection, temperature control, and humidity and ventilation. By following these guidelines and monitoring your pets environment regularly, you can ensure they stay healthy and happy in their new home.Lighting and UVB Requirements UVB LightingBearded dragons require UVB lighting to stay healthy. UVB light helps them to metabolize calcium, which is essential for strong bones and overall health. It is important to install a UVB lamp in the enclosure to provide adequate lighting.When installing the UVB lamp, make sure it is the appropriate wattage for the size of the enclosure. The lamp should be placed about 12 inches away from the basking spot, where the bearded dragon will spend most of its time. It is also important to replace the UVB lamp every 6 to 12 months, as the UVB output decreases over time.Heat and Basking LightsBearded dragons also require a heat source to regulate their body temperature. A heat lamp should be installed on one side of the enclosure to create a basking spot, where the bearded dragon can warm up. The basking spot should be around 100 to 110 degrees Fahrenheit.It is important to provide a temperature gradient in the enclosure, with the basking spot on one side and a cooler area on the other side. This allows the bearded dragon to regulate its body temperature by moving between the two areas.When selecting a basking bulb, choose one that emits both UVA and UVB rays. This will provide additional lighting for the bearded dragon and help to maintain its overall health.In conclusion, providing adequate lighting and UVB requirements is essential for the health and well-being of bearded dragons. By following these guidelines and installing appropriate lighting and heat sources, owners can ensure that their bearded dragons thrive in their enclosure.Designing the LayoutWhen it comes to designing the layout of a bearded dragon tank, there are a few things to keep in mind. The goal is to create an environment that is both functional and aesthetically pleasing for your pet.Arranging Decor and HidesOne important aspect of designing the layout is arranging decor and hides. Bearded dragons need a variety of hiding places, such as caves or logs, to feel secure. In addition, adding decorations like rocks or driftwood can provide climbing opportunities and help create a natural-looking environment.Choosing Safe PlantsAnother important consideration is choosing safe plants. While bearded dragons are not known to eat plants, its still important to select non-toxic options in case they do. Some safe plant options include spider plants, hibiscus, and rosemary.Providing Food and Water AreasFinally, its important to provide designated areas for food and water. A shallow water dish is essential, and its best to place it on the cool side of the tank. Food can be offered in a shallow dish or scattered on the substrate. Its important to ensure that any live food, such as crickets, are not able to escape into the tank.Overall, designing the layout of a bearded dragon tank requires careful consideration of the needs of your pet. By providing a variety of hiding places, safe plants, and designated areas for food and water, you can create a comfortable and stimulating environment for your bearded dragon to thrive in.Health and Safety ConsiderationsPreventing ImpactionImpaction is a common health issue in bearded dragons that can be avoided with proper tank setup. Loose substrate like sand or gravel can cause impaction if ingested, so its recommended to use solid flooring like ceramic tiles, slate, or newspaper. Additionally, logs and accessories with rough edges should be avoided as they can cause internal injuries. Providing a water bowl large enough for the bearded dragon to soak in can also help prevent impaction.Avoiding Metabolic Bone DiseaseMetabolic Bone Disease is a condition caused by a lack of calcium and vitamin D3 in a bearded dragons diet. To avoid this, its important to provide a basking area with a basking rock or slate that has proper traction. The bearded dragon should also have access to UVB lighting for at least 10-12 hours a day. Calcium supplements should be dusted on their food twice a week.Maintaining CleanlinessMaintaining cleanliness in the bearded dragon enclosure is important for their health. Loose substrate like sand or gravel can harbor bacteria and should be avoided. A cage with a screen cover can help with ventilation, but it should be cleaned regularly to prevent bacteria buildup. Thermometers should also be used to monitor the temperature and ensure it stays within the appropriate range for bearded dragons. Bedding should be changed regularly, and any uneaten crickets should be removed promptly to prevent bacterial growth.Finalizing the Tank SetupEnsuring Proper TemperaturesOne of the most important aspects of setting up a bearded dragon tank is ensuring proper temperatures. Bearded dragons require a basking spot with a temperature of around 100-110F, and a cooler side of the tank with a temperature of around 80F. To achieve this, it is recommended to use a heat lamp and a ceramic heat emitter. Make sure to place a thermometer in each area to accurately monitor the temperatures.Monitoring Humidity LevelsBearded dragons require a relatively low humidity level of around 30-40%. To maintain this level, it is important to avoid using a substrate that retains moisture, such as bark. It is recommended to use a non-porous substrate, such as reptile carpet or paper towels. Additionally, misting the tank once a day can help maintain proper humidity levels. Make sure to use a hygrometer to accurately monitor the humidity.Securing the TankIt is important to make sure the tank is secure to prevent escapes and to keep the bearded dragon safe. If using a DIY tank, make sure all edges are sealed properly. If using an acrylic tank, make sure the lid is securely fastened. It is also important to place the tank in a location where it will not be knocked over or exposed to extreme temperatures. A 120 gallon tank is recommended for a young bearded dragon, but make sure to adjust the size as the dragon grows.By following these guidelines, setting up a bearded dragon terrarium can be a simple and rewarding process. Remember to always prioritize the health and safety of the bearded dragon by maintaining proper temperatures, humidity levels, and securing the tank.Frequently Asked Questions are the essential requirements for a bearded dragon enclosure? A bearded dragon enclosure should have a minimum size of 40 gallons for one adult bearded dragon. The enclosure should have a basking area, a cool area, and a hiding spot. The basking area should have a heat lamp that provides a temperature of 100-110F, and the cool area should have a temperature of 75-85F. The enclosure should also have a UVB light that provides 10-12 hours of light per day.How can you create a custom enclosure for a bearded dragon?Creating a custom enclosure for a bearded dragon involves selecting the right materials and designing the enclosure to meet the dragons needs. The enclosure should be made of non-toxic materials that are easy to clean and maintain. The enclosure should also have proper ventilation and lighting. The size of the enclosure should be based on the size of the bearded dragon.What accessories are necessary for a healthy bearded dragon habitat?A healthy bearded dragon habitat requires several accessories, including a basking lamp, a UVB light, a hiding spot, a water dish, and a substrate. The basking lamp provides heat and light for the dragon, while the UVB light provides essential vitamins. The hiding spot is necessary for the dragon to feel secure, and the water dish provides hydration. The substrate should be non-toxic and easy to clean.What is the ideal size for a large bearded dragon tank?The ideal size for a large bearded dragon tank is at least 75 gallons. This size provides enough space for the dragon to move around and have multiple areas for basking, hiding, and cooling down. A larger tank is always better, as it allows the dragon to have more space to explore and exercise.How can you build a bearded dragon enclosure using a dresser?Building a bearded dragon enclosure using a dresser involves removing the drawers and shelves and adding glass or plexiglass to the front. The top of the dresser can be used as the basking area, while the bottom can be used for the cool area and hiding spot. The enclosure should have proper lighting and ventilation, and the dresser should be made of non-toxic materials.What is the estimated cost range for constructing a DIY bearded dragon tank?The estimated cost range for constructing a DIY bearded dragon tank varies depending on the size and materials used. A basic 40-gallon tank can cost around $100-$150, while a larger custom tank can cost upwards of $500. It is important to invest in high-quality materials to ensure the safety and health of the bearded dragon. Are you looking to save some money with your bearded dragon cage? Do you want to stretch your DIY muscles and make some of your bearded dragons gear yourself? Then you may want to learn how to make a custom bearded dragon cage. These dont have to be tricky with the right instructions, but you will need to get the right parts and follow the instructions carefully. Wooden box or container such as an old dresser Insulation Board (See on Amazon) Box Cutter Spray Foam (optional) Tile Grout Paint Acrylic Sheets (See on Amazon) Hinges The first and most obvious thing you need is the container, which will make up the bulk of your custom cage. Some DIYers use particle board cut into 4 x 2 sections to piece together the side panels. This is an excellent way to make your job easier by finding a box from something you no longer need. An old wooden dresser or wooden trunk wouldwork well. But you need to make sure the space inside whatever you use is sufficient for your dragon to move around freely. The table below highlights the space requirement according to bearded dragon size. Bearded Dragon SizeRequired Enclosure SizeBaby bearded dragon less than 10 inches long20 gallonsJuvenile bearded dragon 10-16 inches long40 gallonsAdult bearded dragon between 16 and 20 inches long50-75 gallonsAdult bearded dragon more than 20 inches long75-125 gallons In general, youll need at least 4 long by 2 wide by 2 tall. This will give the 40 gallons you need at minimum for an adult bearded dragon. Tip: Bearded dragons grow fast. So, even if you have a baby beardy, get a 40-gallon tank. Itll save you the hassle of getting and setting up a new one in a few months. Youll use the insulation board to shape your tank how you want it for your pet. Remember, beardies love to climb, so using these to help make a fun area will keep your pet happy. The insulation will also help keep the cage warm, which is a common problem with DIY cages. Youll need the box cutter to help cut the foam insulation boards. A good, fresh blade will make the shaping process much more manageable. Spray foam, specifically to fill gaps and cracks, creates fake but convincing rock-like formations. This isnt necessary, but it will turn out nice. Tile grout is used to cover the insulation and hardened spray foam. It helps smooth out the texture and seal those items further. A non-toxic paint will be needed to unify the look of your custom cage. Going for a rock or earth color makes the most sense, but if you want a hot pink background, nothing is stopping you! You also will want to get paint for the outside of your cage. While this paint doesnt need to be non-toxic, any paint you use on the inside must be. Acrylic sheets provide your glass look to see into the cage. We recommend at least two large ones to complete the front looking in your tank. You may also want to use one on the top ofyour tank as a lid. The hinges will be needed to make the top move and open up. You also use the hinges to make the acrylic front sheets a door, but then make sure you use some kind of latch to prevent the beardy from opening the doors. DIY Bearded Dragon Cage from an old dresser In this section, well offer the step-by-step instructions youll need to build a bearded dragon terrarium. Be sure to read the directions carefully. First, you need to get the space set up. The easiest way to do this would be to use an old dresser or other wooden containers of at least 4 x 2 x 2. Then, remove the interior pieces using your hammer, screwdriver, and other tools. Your goal is to create an empty box space. You wont need to do anything for it at this point, but you do need to decide what way the cage will be oriented. Use the opening for the top or use the opening for the front. Picture the shape of the cage interior in your head or sketch it out. The board is cut and used to create different levels like floors or other places to climb. Use your box cutter to cut and shave the boards into how you want them. If you need to attach the boards firmly, use strong glue. Also, use cut boards stacked upon one another to create stairs. You should also include a layer of insulation on the sides of the cage as well. This isnt for looks, but it will help to keep the cage warm. Optional: This is also where you may want to use spray foam to create a rugged look in the space. Just remember, a little spray goes a long way. Do 3-4 layers of grout over the interior foam and bottom of the cage. The grout is applied according to the specific brands instructions. Make sure you give plenty of time between each layer to allow for it to be set. Follow the manufacturers directions. The grout helps change the texture of the insulation to look more natural. It also helps seal the insulation in and prevent the bearded dragon from accidentally eating it. Choose the color of the grout to match the rugged look you may be going for. Use a non-toxic paint to help it look even more natural. Do two layers of paint, and it should begin tolook pretty cool. Use the box cutter or a small jigsaw to cut out a rectangle in the top. The hole size depends on what youre using the top for, but a larger top will make it easier to get in and get the bearded dragon. If youre cutting out a top for access rather than using the front as access, you need to make sure there is some kind of latch. Beardies are excellent escape artists. Attach the hinges with glue on the acrylic side and screw in the other into the top. Then over the sheet or remove it temporarily while you finish the outside. Using paint and primer of your preference, finish painting the outside of the cage. Be sure not to get any toxic paints on the inside of the enclosure. If there are rough edges, you may also want to sand them down before you paint. Install the acrylic sheets on the top (if you havent yet) and on the front. Use the hinges with glue on the sheet and screws on the wood as needed. If youre using the front sheets as access, consider adding latches or hook to prevent the beardy from escaping. You may also want to attach a door handle to make them easier to move. Congrats! You know how to make a bearded dragon cage. For more ideas on this, check out thefollowing video. Once your DIY bearded dragon enclosure is ready, youll have to set it up. Its a fun task that requires attention to detail. Before you get started, you must have answers to the following questions: What are the best substrate options for bearded dragons? How to maintain proper temperatures in a bearded dragon enclosure? What plants and other decorations are safe to use? What do I need for my dragons feeding session? In the next section, well answer these questions and more to help you stay on top of bearded dragon care. There are a lot of options available to you, but are they all safe? No! You must be extremely careful when choosing the right substrate for your scaly friend. The table below separates safe substrates from unsafe ones. Unsafe Substrate for Bearded DragonsSafe Substrate for Bearded DragonsCalcium sandNewspaperCorn cobReptile carpetWalnut shellsFloor tileChildrens play sandClaySilica sandBioactive substrate The wrong substrate can cause impaction, eye and nose infections, and internal injuries. Some are harder to maintain, resulting in bacterial growth. Some of the substrates to avoid are: Calci-Sand This is calcium carbonate and will cause impaction if ingested. Since the particles are too fine, they can even irritate your beardys eyes and nose. Corn Cob Bedding Fungal growth and digestive blockage are the two main concerns with this substrate. Walnut Shells They can cause intestinal impaction and may get lodged in the cloaca. Its best to also avoid childrens play sand and silica sand. They are linked to respiratory issues in beardies. Bonus Info: Bearded dragons love to dig, so they need a substrate that lets them do this. So, what are some of the best substrate options for bearded dragons? Easily the most cost-effective substrate for your beardys cage. Use ink-free, unbleached paper. Its easy to clean up and replace. Newspaper is best for baby bearded dragons. They are the little poop machines! This is another pocket-friendly option. Its also easy to clean and helps prevent odor. We recommend investing in two carpets so you can switch them out when one is being cleaned. Some reptile carpets have a rough surface, which can be extremely dangerous for your pets nails. They can get caught and ripped out. The trick is to use a soft reptile carpet with a smooth surface. Floor tiles are the best flooring option for your beardys cage. They are easy to clean, look aesthetic, provide traction, and pose no threat to your pets health. Be careful when placing the tile in your pets enclosure. It can crack the terrarium floor, especially if you have a glass one. Feeling creative? Use clay to sculpt terrains similar to those in the bearded dragons natural habitat. This is an excellent option for pet owners who want more control over their pet dragons environment. The only issue with clay is that youll have to change it occasionally. A bioactive substrate is as close to your pets natural home as it gets. Its a self-cleaning substrate with tiny organisms that break down waste. Bioactive substrates should be at least 4 inches deep to help with drainage. Its also good for your lizards mental and physical health. However, creating a bioactive terrarium isnt easy. Its time-consuming and requires some skill. Bearded dragons are cold-blooded creatures that need a warm basking spot to regulate their body temperature. Improper lighting and heating can result in metabolic bone disease. It is a serious condition that can paralyze your pet lizard. If left untreated, your pet will eventually die! Lets look at ways to meet your pet lizards heating, lighting, and humidity needs. Bearded dragons prefer a temperature gradient in their enclosure a range of temperatures where they can move around to regulate their body temperature. The cool side (during daytime) should be between 70-85F, and the basking spot should be between 95-110F. At night, its safe to let the temperature dip to 65-70F. The following bearded dragon enclosure essentials will help you maintain the temperature: Heat lamp: Place the heat lamp directly above the basking rock, a little to one side of your pets enclosure. Your bearded dragon can sit under it when it needs more warmth. Itll help your pet digest food. Ceramic heat emitter: This is the best option for night heating. It doesnt have any light, so your bearded dragon wont be disturbed in its sleep. The lighting system in your pets enclosure provides two vital things warmth and UVB. Bearded dragons need both UVA and UVB light to thrive. The following lights are essential: UVA: Your pet needs this to be able to see. Since UVA is part of natural sunlight, it helps beardies become more active. It also helps regulate your pets circadian rhythm and aids digestion. Use a reptile basking light for this. UVB: This is critical for your dragon to absorb calcium and prevent metabolic bone disease. The best way to provide UVB light is through fluorescent tubes or compact bulbs specially designed for reptiles. 12 hours of UVB lighting is ideal. Also, change the UVB bulb every 6 months. Tip: If youre placing your UVB lamp on top of a screen lid, use a lid with large squares. Itll allow UV rays to get past the screen lid all the way to the bottom of the tank. Its important to note that bearded dragons dont need light at night. In their natural habitat, they go to sleep when it gets dark. Leaving the lights on or using red light will disturb their sleep and disrupt their day-night cycle. Bearded dragons require a humidity level of 35-40%. Luckily, its easy to maintain these levels. Here are some tips thatll help: Ensure theres proper ventilation in the tank. The screen lid will help here. Keep your pets water dish away from the basking light. Avoid misting the tank too often. It can cause respiratory infections. If you live in a dry climate, use a humidifier or soak a towel in water and place it on top of the screen lid. Now that weve covered some essential aspects of bearded dragon care, lets move on to decorating your pets enclosure. A well-decorated, beautiful terrarium doesnt only look good in your home but also keeps things exciting for your beardy. If youre a new bearded dragon parent, go with a minimal setup. Itll be easier to maintain. You can always make changes as you learn more about your pets likes and dislikes. Add the following things to your pets tank to make it more aesthetic. You can easily find them at your local pet store. Hiding spots Rocks, logs, and caves are great for your bearded dragon to hide in when it gets overwhelmed. You can also create a hiding spot using cork bark. Plants Live or plastic plants will make the tank look more natural. If you choose live plants, make sure theyre safe for your beardy (dont use toxic ones!). Plastic plants are easier to maintain and clean but may not provide all the benefits of live plants. Rocks and branches for climbing Your beardy loves to climb. Place some sturdy climbing rocks and branches in its tank, but be careful theyre secure. You dont want them falling on your pet! Basking rock This is where your dragon will spend most of its day. Make sure its big enough for your pet to bask comfortably. Hammock Bearded dragons love lounging on hammocks. Itll also provide an elevated basking spot for your pet. Youll need a few tools to feed your bearded dragon. Make sure you have the following items before bringing your pet home. A shallow dish of water Food bowl Tweezers for feeding live insects Measuring spoons to measure powdered supplements and additives Live feeder insects In a custom cage, you may need to worry about keeping a bearded dragon warm. Here are a couple of quick tips to help with this: Use insulation on the inside while building the cage Choose a good heater Use a thermometer to check the temperature regularly Keep the cage away from windows Remember, bearded dragons come from the Australian deserts, so they need higher temperatures. Keep the heat up! It may be hard to imagine what you want in a custom cage. So its OK to look to examples for inspiration. Or, if it seems too difficult, you could always buy one. REPTI ZOO Reptile Glass Terrarium, Double Hinge Door with Screen Ventilation Reptile Terrarium (See On Amazon) This one is great for looking at a three wall see-through design. The double-hinged top is of note, as well. Exo Terra Glass Reptile Terrarium (See On Amazon) This cage uses a raised bottom for the option of installing a floor heater. Hagen Exo Terra Short All Glass Terrarium (See On Amazon) This one features front opening doors. REPTI ZOO 67Gallon Reptile Large Terrarium Upgrade Glass Front Opening Tank Sliding Door with Screen Ventilation Reptile Terrarium (See On Amazon) From this cage, look into screen tops and a sliding door. Tetra Deluxe Aquatic Turtle Kit (See On Amazon) Although this is a turtle kit, it works with beardies as well. This tank can use heaters on top of the tank through the top. Any of these would make a great enclosure with no effort. But if you want to make a habitat DIY, learn from their designs in your style. Your duty doesnt end with setting up an enclosure. You must also keep it clean and germ-free to ensure your pet lizard lives a healthy life. Ideally, your cleaning routine should be divided into three parts daily, weekly, and monthly. This is also called spot-cleaning. The idea is to regularly remove waste and uneaten food from your pets cage. Itll prevent the spread of bacteria and reduce odor. Heres what you need to do: Remove bearded dragon poop using a scooper or dustpan. Change the water in the water dish. Remove any live insects your pet didnt eat. You dont want them crawling around the cage. Get rid of the soiled substrate. This is a more thorough cleaning routine. Make sure you set aside some time for this; your bearded dragons health depends on it! Change the substrate or clean the enclosure bottom. Its best to replace or wash the substrate once in one to two weeks. Wash and disinfect the water dish, food bowl, and any other climbing accessories. Wipe down the inside of the tank with a safe reptile disinfectant. This is where you deep clean the entire enclosure. Itll take a little more time than your weekly cleaning routine. Heres what you need to do: Take out everything from the tank. Wash and disinfect all the items, including the basking rock, hammock, and climbing accessories. Scrub down the inside of the tank with a reptile-safe disinfectant. Rinse thoroughly after cleaning. Dry the tank and reset it up. Its natural for you to wonder whether its even profitable to invest time in building your bearded dragons enclosure yourself. Weve rounded some pros and cons of both to help you make a better decision. Pros Customizable You have complete control over the design and size of the cage.Easy on the pocket DIY-ing your pets enclosure can be cheaper than purchasing a manufactured one.Sense of accomplishment Its satisfying to see your pet thrive in an environment you built with your own hands. Cons Requires time and effort Building a custom cage takes time, effort, and sometimes specific skills. Less experience If this is your first time owning a bearded dragon, you may not have enough knowledge to build an ideal enclosure. Hey, but youll learn.