

# ★ TARANTULA ★ SUPPLIES CHECKLIST

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## 10% OFF Complete Kit

Purchase ALL items from top portion of this Supplies Checklist and save 10% on everything! (excludes sale items)  
10% kit discount also applies to regular-priced "suggestions" when you purchase all items from the top portion.

ITEM	PLU#	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
Cage			
Cage Top			
Water Bowl			
Bedding/Substrate			
Hiding Place			
Gut Load (for feeders)			
<b>SUGGESTIONS:</b>			
Tarantula			
Reflector Dome (x2)			
Heat Light/Emitter			
Thermometer			
Hygrometer			

KREWE MEMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

This estimate is valid for 14 days from this date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

### CHOOSE YOUR PET CAREFULLY!

## 14 Day 50/50 Guarantee

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, **WE** take half the responsibility and **YOU** take half the responsibility.

Bring the pet (and your receipt) back within **14 days** and get a **STORE CREDIT** for **HALF** the purchase price.



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# TARANTULA

*Theraphosidae family*



EXPERIENCE LEVEL	LIFE EXPECTANCY	ACTIVITY	HABITAT	DIET
Intermediate	2-30 years	Nocturnal	Varied	Carnivore

**ADULT SIZE:** 3 to 12 inches

**NATIVE TO:** Tropical, subtropical, and desert areas around the world.  
**GROUPING:** Generally, tarantulas should not be housed together as they are not social creatures and may try to kill one another. Some species, such as the pink toe tarantula have been successfully housed together, but they need to be kept well fed in a spacious enclosure.

**HABITAT:** Minimum 8"x8". A 10 gallon tank with a secure cover will give your tarantula room to roam and space for you to add hiding places and decorations. Arboreal species will prefer a taller enclosure whereas burrowing species will prefer more ground space. Whatever you choose, make sure it is escape proof! Adding decorations will provide places for your pet to hide which will help reduce stress. Rocks, cork bark, artificial plants, hiding caves, and branches are all great choices.

**BEDDING:** Coconut fiber. The bedding (substrate) should be deep enough for your tarantula to burrow in - at least 2-3". Avoid cedar as it is toxic to some invertebrates.

**HABITAT CARE:** Spot clean as needed. At least once every three months, clean their cage with a 5% bleach solution (¼ cup bleach in 1 gallon of water), rinse well with freshwater, then put in new substrate.

**LIGHTING:** If the room in which the enclosure is located is naturally lit during the day, you do not need to add lighting. If the room is not lit during the day, add a LED fixture to simulate daylight during daytime hours. You may also need a nighttime heat bulb to maintain the temperatures. Using a heat bulb can dry out the enclosure, so be sure to check humidity regularly when using a heat light.

**TEMPERATURE:** Most tarantulas do well with daytime temperatures between 70°- 80°F. At night, the temperature can safely drop to 65°F. Place a thermometer in the habitat to monitor temperatures. Under tank heaters are a good option to help maintain the correct temperatures. Avoid placing habitat in direct sunlight and drafty areas due to excessive temperature changes.

**HUMIDITY:** For many species kept as pets, their enclosure should be maintained around 70%-80% humidity. Mist the enclosure with dechlorinated water as necessary. Place a hygrometer inside the enclosure to accurately monitor humidity levels.

**WATER:** Fresh water should be available at all times. Use a heavy, shallow bowl. To prevent drowning, add a thin layer of aquarium gravel or a sponge to the bowl to give your tarantula something to get up on. Clean and refill water bowl daily or more often as necessary.

**DIET:** Tarantulas are predators and will eat most insects. Some species will also eat larger prey like frogs, small lizards, and mice. Foods to avoid include wild-caught insects and fire flies. Twice a week, offer a couple of insects, such as crickets, to your tarantula. Larger tarantulas may need to be fed every day. Do not leave uneaten insects inside your pet's enclosure as they may nibble on your pet when it's sleeping. Gut load insects at least once a week. Since tarantulas are nocturnal, it is best to feed them in the evening.

**GRADING:** As they grow, tarantulas molt their exoskeleton. They will stop feeding for a week or so before their molt. They will turn over on their back, the old exoskeleton will split, they will work it off then flip upright. It will be several days before the new exoskeleton hardens. Do not feed or handle the tarantula during this time.

**HANDLING & TEMPERAMENT:** If you decide to handle your pet, place your hand palm up in front of the spider and gently urge it onto your hand by touching it on the sensitive hairs on the back of its abdomen. If the spider rears back at you or seems very nervous, try again at another time. Use care when handling your tarantula as a drop can crack your pet's protective shell (exoskeleton) and kill it. As a natural defense, tarantulas can flick the tiny hairs off their body which can cause an allergic reaction or irritation in some people. Tarantulas have fangs and can bite. The bite has been compared to a bee sting. Some people may be especially sensitive to their bite. If bitten, seek medical attention. Two common species that are usually able to be handled easily are the striped knee and the pink toe.

**EXERCISE:** Your pet should have enough space to move around its enclosure as well as burrow. Closely supervise your pet outside of its enclosure.

