



WHERE REPTILES RULE®

# **SNAKE KIT SETUP & CARE GUIDE**

**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW  
TO SETUP YOUR TERRARIUM  
AND CARE FOR SNAKES**





## QUICK FACTS

Snakes are the world's most effective natural controllers of the rodent population.

Most snakes can swallow prey more than three times their own body's diameter.

Snakes have six rows of teeth; four on top and two on bottom



## REPTILE PROFILE

**Name:** Corn Snake

**Type:** Terrestrial and Arboreal

**Activity:** Nocturnal

**Habitat:** Forest and plains

**Daytime Temperature:** 75-85° F

**Basking Temperature:** 85-90° F

**Night Temperature:** 75-80° F



## REPTILE PROFILE

**Name:** California Kingsnake

**Type:** Terrestrial

**Activity:** Crepuscular

**Habitat:** Coastal Grasslands

**Daytime Temperature:** 75-85° F

**Basking Temperature:** 85-90° F

**Night Temperature:** 70-75° F





## TERRARIUM SETUP GUIDE



- 1. Add Zilla bedding to terrarium.** Pour bedding to a depth of 1 to 2 inches into the terrarium. Remove any animal waste or soiled bedding daily. Replace bedding monthly or as needed.



- 2. Place Rock Den™ in terrarium.** It should be in a location that will not be under the heat lamp.



## TERRARIUM SETUP GUIDE CONT'D



- 3. Add water dish to terrarium.** It's best to place in a location not directly under a heat lamp, as the water will evaporate more quickly.



- 4. Attach Humidity and Temperature Gauge to back wall of terrarium using suction cups provided.** Mount in an easily viewed, central location away from heat source and water bowl.



- 5. Insert and slide screen cover on terrarium.** NOTE: When closing screen cover, make sure screen latches are secure.



- 6. Place light domes on terrarium.** Place fixture with Day Blue lamp on screen cover away from den. Place fixture with Night Heat lamp next to dome with Day Blue lamp.





## Snake Basic Care Guide

### NUMBER OF SNAKES PER ENCLOSURE

Do not keep more than one snake per enclosure. It is recommended to keep snakes in separate terrariums so that their habits and behavior can be monitored. Some snakes are cannibalistic and will eat other snakes. **NOTE: it is important to keep the lid enclosure secure to prevent the snake from escaping.**

### BEDDING

Bark or wood chips are the bedding of choice for snakes. A depth of 1-2 inches will provide enough bedding to absorb fecal matter and prevent it from spreading in the enclosure. Be sure to remove soiled bedding daily. Bedding also provides a place for snakes to burrow. Do NOT use cedar or pine chips, as the oils from these woods may be harmful to snakes.

### SHELTER

Most snakes are shy by nature and spend most of their time in tight areas. For this reason, it is important to provide a shelter or secure hiding area for the snake to feel comfortable. Shelters should be heavy enough so that snakes will not tip them over.

### SHEDDING

Snakes periodically molt or shed their skin, replacing the old with newer, more flexible skin. Generally it takes 7-10 days to shed from start to finish. When a snake

begins to shed, its color becomes faded and the snake's eyes become milky. After a few days, the eyes clear while the shedding skin continues for several more days. During this time, it is best to keep most snakes more moist to ease the shedding process.

### WATER AND HUMIDITY

Most homes contain dry air, so it is important to provide water and humidity for snakes (especially while molting). For water, use a bowl placed in the center of the terrarium. Most snakes defecate around the perimeter of the enclosure, so keeping the water in the middle is good practice. Use the water bowl as a gauge to determine if the snake is comfortable. If the snake is often lying in the water, it probably needs added moisture in the cage, or the cage may be too warm. Mist snakes with a spray bottle to provide humidity.

### RECOMMENDED PRODUCT

#### Zilla Bark Bends

Provides shelter and a basking area



## BASIC CARE GUIDE CONT'D

### HEATING

Offering snakes a choice of temperature is important to their metabolic functions, such as digestion. For this reason, it is important to offer a heat source that the snake can use when needed. A radiant heat incandescent bulb or ceramic heat emitter is recommended because there is no chance of the snake being burned. A temperature gradient is recommended so that the snake can move to a warmer area to heat up and a cooler spot to cool down. Make sure a thermometer is present in the terrarium to monitor the temperature. Depending on the species of snake, adjust the heat output by changing the wattage of the basking bulb.

### LIGHTING

All species of snakes require daytime and nighttime cycles. 10-12 hours of daylight is suggested for proper health. **NOTE: Daytime lights should NOT be kept on at all times.** Use a black or red incandescent light at night to provide ambient heat reptiles need. These emit low levels of light that will not disturb the animal's day/night cycles, while allowing for nocturnal viewing. It is important to keep a consistent day/night cycle, which is best achieved by using an electronic timer to turn the light on and off.

### FEEDING

All snakes are carnivorous and will thrive on appropriately-sized rodents. Frozen rodents that are thawed to room temperature are safer to feed than live ones. Always ask a store associate about what size and type of rodent your snake feeds on when you purchase it.

### RECOMMENDED READING

*Complete Herp Care: Corn and Rat Snakes*  
by Philip Purser

*Complete Herp Care: Red-Tailed Boas*  
by Ben Aller, Mark K. Bayless  
and Riley Campbell

*Quick and Easy Ball Python Care*  
by Colette Sutherland

*Quick and Easy Garter and Ribbon  
Snake Care*  
by Philip Purser

### RECOMMENDED PRODUCT

#### 24/7 Digital Timer Power Center

Controls daytime and nighttime lighting



See [zilla-rules.com](http://zilla-rules.com) for more information on other quality Zilla products.



# COMPLETE KIT SETUP



## **Zilla®**

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