



# How to make a terrarium by Alan Chan

A terrarium is a glass enclosure designed to imitate a mini ecosystem indoors. It contains soil, plants and decorative rocks. Your terrarium can be made a number of different ways, depending on the plants and style you want to achieve.

## What you'll need:

BEGÄRLIG Vase, 103.097.82

DYFT Decorative stones, 104.598.04

KULÖRT Decorative, 603.171.76

SUCCULENT Potted plant, 503.497.24

Premium Potting Mix

Sphagnum Moss

Activated Charcoal

Decorative objects (optional)

## Step-by-step

**1. Select glassware** that is suitable for both the aesthetic you want, and for the plants you want to grow in it. For plants that grow in an arid climate like succulents, make sure the top is open to allow for airflow and prevent excess condensation. However, if you want to imitate a rainforest environment with small ferns it is best to use a lid to help trap humidity.

**2. Start with a drainage layer**, using small rocks or pebbles, create an even layer at the bottom of the terrarium, depending on the size of your glassware about 1-2cm deep. This will drain water away from the soil and will prevent the roots from sitting in soggy soil.

**3. Create a separation layer**, spread a layer of lightly damp sphagnum moss over the rocks, and then compact it down with your hand. Fill in any gaps with some more moss and compact it down again. This layer keeps the soil from falling into the drainage and will help draw excess moisture back into the soil. Following this, add a thin layer of activated charcoal. The charcoal helps to absorb odours and prevents mould. If the pieces are too big, you can gently crumble to suit your size preference.

**4. Fill in with potting mix.** The top layer is the soil that your plants will grow in, so make sure it is deep enough for your plants' roots. Use a potting mix that is appropriate for the plants you have chosen – succulents prefer sand and coarse grit in the mix to keep it on the drier side, but ferns prefer moister soil.

**5. Style the terrarium.** Before potting them, place the plants around the terrarium until you have a style you like. This is really up to your preferences, but it can be an idea to create layers, by putting taller plants at the back or centre of the terrarium, and the smallest ones around the edges.

**6. Plant the terrarium.** Starting with the largest plant first, remove it from its pot by squeezing gently. Using your fingers, break up the existing soil. Remove as much of it as you can, while being careful not to damage the roots. Then create a hole in the topsoil, place the plant's roots into the hole, and fill in the hole around the roots again. Continue until you have planted all of your plants.

**7. Add your decorative objects.** Once your plants are in, it's time to finish off the terrarium. Depending on the style you're hoping to achieve, you can add a layer of sand, some small rocks or pebbles or even plastic miniatures like a dinosaur or little frog.

**8. Enjoy!** Now that your terrarium is finished, give it a little water, wipe down the glass and find a place in your home to place it. Remember, plants need light to survive so keeping it on a bright windowsill is best, and succulents will even appreciate a little direct sun. Water the terrarium sparingly - there shouldn't be a build-up of water in the drainage layer.

