



FACEBOOK LIVE SEMINAR

How to Create a Bottle Terrarium

Building terrariums are not only fun to put together but can be a fashionable accent to any indoor or outdoor space. You can make a terrarium with virtually any clear container, but knowing the steps can help design your masterpiece. In this online seminar, Mike Westphal, the Garden Guru, guides you step-by-step on how to design, plant, and care for a bottle terrarium.

What is a Terrarium?

A terrarium is a transparent container in which plants are grown. In this seminar, Mike is creating a closed bottle terrarium. These containers are a great, easy-care planting system you can create either by yourself or as a family. Terrariums are a micro ecosystem that can be self-sustaining when using a closed bottle.

More Notes on Bottle Terrariums:

- During the seminar, Mike is using medium to low light plants. Bottle terrariums can be made with medium to high light plants as well, just be aware of the needs for the plants you choose.
- The biggest difference between planting in a terrarium, compared to a pot, is there is no drainage holes. Watering terrariums is not like watering your average houseplant.

Terrariums Have Layers

Understanding the layers in bottle terrariums are the most important part of the creation process. This protects the plants from getting soggy, as well as giving you control over the design of the tiny world inside the bottle.

1st Layer - Rocks

Depending on the size of the terrarium, the rocks can also vary in size, shape, and color depending on the look that is desired. The functionality of the rock layer creates a barrier between the soil and the glass to avoid sitting water and root rot for the plants.

2nd Layer - Charcoal

Horticultural charcoal is an essential in the bottle terrarium building process. This layer can be placed either before the rocks or after. The charcoal prevents bacteria from sitting in the water inside the terrarium, which can create a swampy smell in the terrarium.

3rd Layer - Soil

All-purpose potting soil is the way to go with terrariums. If you are planting up succulents or desert plants, you may want to adjust your soil to cactus soil or a more rock-based soil to avoid over-watering.

4th Layer - Plants

When picking out your plants for your terrarium, make sure they can pair well together, as well as fit through the bottle neck of your closed bottle terrarium. For more information on terrarium plant ideas, visit our blog [here](#).

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5th Layer - Decorations

The choices are endless with themes and items to place in your bottle terrariums. Make sure to grab the right tools for the job to get your decor through the bottle safely. These tools can range from extendable shovels to dusters and grabbing devices.

6th Layer - Water

When your terrarium is finished, use a watering can to gently water down the inner sides of the bottle. Make sure not to overwater, but if you do, wait until the soil is very dry before watering again. Terrariums require less water because there are no drainage holes and also because they cycle water through the base of rocks and charcoal with evaporation and then condensation.

All Finished!

Once you have watered your bottle terrarium, you are done! But don't put that cork on yet, leave the terrarium with the cork off for a week and then lightly place it sideways on the opening of the bottle for another week. If there is no more condensation in the bottle, then you are free to place the cork on all the way! Some closed bottle terrarium systems are so efficient that they don't need to be opened for a very long time (sometimes years!). But if you see your plants looking a little dry, just follow the steps above again.

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