

# shopping list

## Step 1 - Enclosure

- ☐ Enclosure; 60 x 45 x 45cm minimum
- ☐ Water bowl
- ☐ Substrate
- ☐ Cave hide
- ☐ Artificial plants

## Step 2 - Maintenance

- ☐ Thermometer
- ☐ LED lighting (optional)
- ☐ Water conditioner

## Step 3 - Nutrition

- ☐ Crickets
- ☐ Woodies
- ☐ Silkworms
- ☐ Calcium and Vitamin supplement powder
- ☐ Feeding tongs

## Common Health Issues

**Fungal Diseases:** Salamanders can develop fungal skin infections if poor husbandry practices are in place and their enclosure is not properly cleaned.

**Metabolic Bone Disease:** Calcium or vitamin D3 deficiency as a result of incorrect diet.

**Chemical Toxicity:** Salamanders are extremely sensitive to chemicals due to their semi-permeable skin. This means they should never be exposed to chlorine, disinfectants, fly sprays, deodorants or perfumes.



If you notice any of the following symptoms, please contact your vet.

- Loss of appetite
- Discolouration of skin
- Impeded mobility

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# SALAMANDER



## FAST FACTS

LIFESPAN: 6-8 years

SIZE: 10-15cm

ENCLOSURE: Glass terrarium of at least 60x45x45cm

DIET: Crickets, woodies and silkworms

Find out everything you need for your Salamander in 3 simple steps



Enclosure



Maintenance



Nutrition



# YOUR CARE GUIDE FOR SALAMANDERS

## Step 1 - Enclosure



Glass reptile enclosures are ideal for housing salamanders as they are water proof and have adequate ventilation. An enclosure approximately 60x45x5cm would be suitable for housing 1-2 adult salamanders.

Salamanders are 'fossorial', meaning they love to dig and burrow.

An organic substrate is required, such as coco-fibre or sphagnum moss. The substrate should be kept slightly damp to maintain humidity levels, and a moisture gradient should be present to allow the salamander to osmoregulate.

A small hide is essential for salamanders, and a shallow water dish should always be available with clean water. Water must be treated with water



conditioner before being placed in the enclosure to remove harmful chlorine and other chemicals.

It is important to ensure that any rocks or gravel used are of a size that cannot be swallowed; ingestion of gravel can occur during feeding, and results can be fatal.

## Step 2 - Maintenance



Salamanders prefer a cooler temperature range of 18-22°C. Excessive temperatures should be avoided; temperatures over 25°C for an extended period of time can be potentially life threatening.

Being nocturnal, salamanders do not require any UV lighting, however low-light LED lighting can be used for viewing purposes.

Water should be changed when soiled, or every few days with dechlorinated tap water. The enclosure should be spot cleaned on a daily basis, with any poos or uneaten dead food removed. Sides of the enclosure should be wiped down 2-3 times a week to maintain a clean environment, and full substrate change should be done every 2-3 months, dependent on how many salamander inhabit the enclosure.

Handling of salamanders should be avoided, as their skin is semi-permeable and they can easily pick up detergents, toxins or other nasty residues that may be on our hands.

## Step 3 - Nutrition



Salamanders can eat a range of live insects including crickets, wood roaches, earth worms and silkworms.

Any insects given should first be coated with a calcium and vitamin supplement.

Salamanders should be fed at least twice a week using feeding tongs to offer the items of food. Pinky mice may also be offered as an occasional treat, however should not be used as a steady diet due to their high fat content.

Any uneaten insects or leftover food items should be removed from the enclosure daily to prevent injury to the salamander.

## Did You Know?

Salamanders are the adult form of an axolotl.

Young axolotls undergo the process of metamorphosis, where they lose their gills, develop lungs and emerge from the water to live on land.