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# Watch Ants Dig Real Tunnels!



## Includes:

- Sturdy Ant Mountain™ Habitat
- Specially Selected Digging Sand
- Sand Rod for packing sand and starting tunnels
- Watering Dropper
- Handy Instruction Guide
- And Either: 2 Tubes of Live Ants or a READ ME Voucher to order your Live Ants online.



**WARNING:**  
CHOKING HAZARD—Small parts.  
Not for Children under 3 years.

## Ant Mountain™ Instruction Guide

[InsectLore.com](http://InsectLore.com)

## 1. Getting Started



Ant Mountain™ is the most realistic Ant Habitat ever. The fascinating Inside/Outside cutaway design allows you to see Ants dig, excavate, forage, and problem solve inside and outside. Ant Mountain™ is designed for the Western Harvester Ant, a large industrious ant. Insect Lore ships Harvester Ants year-round; for the greatest availability, the best time to order your ants is between the months of April and October.

## 2. Fill the Back of Ant Mountain™ with Sand

It's fun to set up your Ant Mountain™ with the special sand included! This special sand is an inorganic mineral and is naturally sterile.

- A) Snip a small corner off the bag of sand.
- B) Open the hinged lid at the top of Ant Mountain™, and face the flat side of Ant Mountain™ toward you. Locate the small “half-funnel” opening/hole at the top of the sandy colored mountain.
- C) Gently pour 1"-2" of sand into the back FLAT portion of Ant Mountain™. Don't worry if a little sand falls on the front rounded “outside” of Ant Mountain™. (Figure 1)

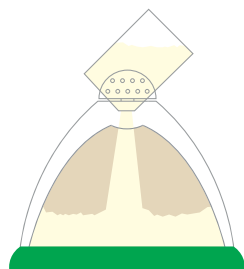


Figure 1

- D) Locate the Sand Rod and use it to tamp the sand. Be sure to push the sand into the corners at the bottom. Tamping the sand allows for more sand to fit inside the back panel, giving the ants more sand to dig!

**Helpful Hint:** Gently tap the base of Ant Mountain™ against countertop or table top to allow the sand to settle even further.

- E) After tamping down this layer of sand, add 3 dropperfuls of water to the sand, to help it settle even more. (Figure 2)
- F) Repeat steps C, D and E until the sand is nearly to the top of the back of Ant Mountain™. We include more sand than you will need; it's okay to have a lot left over.

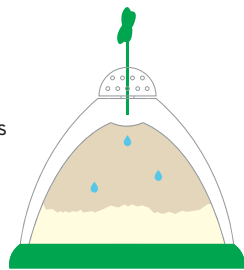


Figure 2

## 3. When Your Ants Arrive (or if they arrived with your Ant Mountain™)

Your Ants arrive in 2 small Ant Tubes. Do Not Open these Tubes Yet!

Place the Ant Tubes in the refrigerator for 10-15 minutes. This cooling period will slow down your Ants, making it much easier to transfer them into Ant Mountain™.

Do NOT put the Ant Tubes in the Freezer!

While the Ants are cooling, now is a good time to give them a little head start with tunneling. Open the Snap-Shut lid and insert the Sand Rod into the back of the habitat - about 3" deep into the sand. Carefully pull the Sand Rod straight back out leaving a "starter tunnel" for the Ants to begin excavating and exploring. (Figure 3)

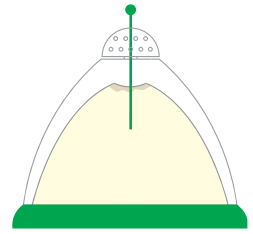


Figure 3

After cooling in the refrigerator for 10 minutes, the Ants are ready to be transferred. With the Ant Tubes held upright, gently tap the tube so the Ants fall away from the cap. Quickly twist and pull off the Ant Tube cap and tap the Ants into the top of Ant Mountain™, opening one Ant Tube at a time. Quickly close the Snap-Shut lid.

Your Ants may seem sluggish at first, but don't worry, soon they will find their way around Ant Mountain™ and will begin digging tunnels!

**CAUTION:** Do not touch or handle the Ants as they can bite and sting, both of which can be painful. If you are stung, apply ice to the area until the pain subsides. If symptoms persist contact a physician.

## 4. Caring for Your Ants



Your Ant Mountain™ comes with living Harvester Ants, or with a Voucher to redeem for your Ants later. Harvester Ants are hardy, voracious diggers that require minimal care. In fact, these Ants thrive under harsh desert conditions, so it is important not to overfeed or overwater your Ants. Harvester Ants are happy with minimal care.

**Food:** Once every 2-3 days you can feed your Ants one sunflower seed, or a piece of celery, apple, or carrot that is no bigger than a sunflower seed. Open the lid of the habitat and drop the tiny piece of food into Ant Mountain™. Your Ants will find it quickly. Once that little morsel is consumed, you can add another tiny piece of fruit or seed - but tiny, infrequent portions are key. **Do Not Overfeed Your Ants!**

**Water:** Once every 2-3 days use your dropper to add 2-3 drops of water into the back of Ant Mountain™, onto the sand. **Do Not Overwater Your Ants!**

## 5. General Tips



Your Ants will live longer if they are kept at room temperature, and out of the sun. The sun can cause harmful condensation inside Ant Mountain™. Try not to move or jostle Ant Mountain™ excessively as any rough handling could collapse the Ants' intricate tunnels.

If your Ants are congregating at the top of Ant Mountain™ you can try gently blowing through the airholes; the moving air will cause the Ants to move excitedly.

*Continued on back*

Your Ant Mountain™ Ants are Western Harvester Ants and they come from the rugged deserts of the American Southwest. Their scientific name is *Pogonomyrmex occidentalis* and they are known for their painful bites and stings, and for their prodigious digging.

Ant Mountain™ was specifically designed for our large Harvester Ants. Ant Mountain™ Sand was also selected specifically because of its large varied grains, and also because it is inert, sterile, and super-light, making it fascinating to watch your Ants excavate.



***We hope you enjoy many hours of fascination  
and learning as you explore the inside world  
of Ants with Ant Mountain™.***



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[InsectLore.com](http://InsectLore.com)



Your Ant Mountain™ experience is important to us!  
Please share your stories, reviews and images on Facebook,  
Pinterest, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram - or at [InsectLore.com](http://InsectLore.com)!

