

Why is Leaf Litter and other forms of biodegradables very important in your bioactive vivarium?

Leaves, sticks, bark, branches.....why do I need this in my bioactive habitat? When looking at almost every ecosystem in the planet there is always one common defining factor – there is a biodegradable or biological driver present to reinforce the necessary microbiological, fungal and cycles found in nature. In a bioactive habitat, it is no different. Since we are creating an enclosed ecosystem, it is important to understand that the substrate being utilized will eventually lose the efficacy if there is not external process' to revitalize it overtime. That is exactly where different biodegradables come into play.

At the Bio Dude, we like to think of the substrate in your bioactive habitat as the car and the leaf litter, bark and other biodegradables as the fuel that moves the car forward. This essential component not only will need to be replaced over time, but it does also provide instinctual nourishment and enrichment for the animals we are keeping in the bioactive terrarium. Leaf litter and other biodegradables play the following roles in your habitat.

1. Biodegradables provide necessary nutrient cycling in your habitat. As the leaf litter decays it slowly releases nutrients slowly into your substrate, providing a constant source of food for beneficial microorganisms and plants in your bioactive habitat.
2. Helps provide humidity retention and fluctuation. As your biodegradables decay, it holds onto moisture and helps regulate humidity levels in your bioactive habitat.
3. Provides necessary hiding places and different microclimates. Leaf Litter will provide shelter and hiding places for small clean-up crews and even terrestrial reptiles and amphibians. This will also help enforce a healthy clean-up crew population within your bioactive habitat which will in turn, break down more organic matter to help keep your habitat clean and sanitary.
4. Leaf litter provides a more, natural looking habitat that helps your pets feel right at home!

Overall, leaf litter and other biodegradables are a necessity component in your bioactive ecosystem and when utilized properly your soil and your inhabitants will benefit greatly! If you have any other questions about leaf litter or other biodegradables feel free to reach out to the Dude crew at customercare@thebiodude.com