



# D<sup>3</sup> ARC POD

## How to set up your Turtle Terrarium Guide...

A friendly, easy, step by step guide to create the perfect habitat for hatching turtles.



1. After safely assembling your enclosure stand or sighting the enclosure where you want it to be, a small amount of water should be added to check the system for leaks. It is important that you are happy with the enclosures position as you should never move an aquarium with water and decoration inside.
2. When happy, begin by choosing your hot illuminated basking area. This is the start of setting the essential thermo and photo-gradient. If using gravel, place a layer over the entire bottom of the enclosure. Then use your rocks and/or decoration to create a gradual gradient into the basking zone. This is the area where your hatchling turtle will be able to climb out of the water or float in the water under the essential UVB emitting lamp. This process depends on the species kept, so make sure that you have read up prior to purchase about your species so that you can decide how much of the decoration will be out of the water.
3. When you are happy that the gradient is set and safe from potential rock-fall you can gradually add RO or dechlorinated water to the system. Fill the enclosure to the depth required for your species. Again check that the decoration is stable. If using live freshwater plants as decoration and a food source, these can be added now.
4. Choose an aquarium heater that is right for your system. Set the temperature to heat the water to an ambient 20-24 degrees depending on species. This will heat the whole water space and does not provide a thermal-gradient. When safe to do so and when the heater is fully submerged turn the heater on.
5. Now unpack and assemble your filter. Turtles produce large amounts of waste and will dig into any substrate, it is essential that the filter that you have chosen is powerful enough to keep the water clean. In many cases the use of an external filter is a very good idea. You should also cut your [Arcadia Terrarium Polyfilter](#) to fit inside the filter chamber. This intelligent filter media with attract and lock in any poisons that are created in the water, Ammonia, Nitrite, Nitrate and Phosphate to mention a few. This will also help reduce algae. Set up the filter according to the instructions provided by the manufacturer. When safe to do so the filter can be switched on.
6. Next unpack your Arcadia D3 Arc-Pod and clamp it centrally over the basking zone of your enclosure. In some systems the use of more than one fitting maybe required. This is your basking zone and will be the area of the enclosure where we will provide extra heat if required depending on species. For true basking turtles like the Sliders or Cooters the use of a small [50 Watt Halogen Heatspot](#) safely fitted into a [Clamp Lamp](#) assembly can be situated next to the Arc-Pod. If using heat lamps they should always be set through a thermostatic controller. This will ensure that the basking zone does not over heat. The use of a mechanical timer is also advised to provide for a stable daily photo-period.

### Your system is now set and ready to mature

You may decide to use a filter start product to get the bacterial filter culture started. Usually in a week to ten days the water will not only be up to temperature but you will have found any faults with the system and rectified them. The bacterial culture will also be well underway. After testing the water for PH, Nitrite and Nitrate you will be able to add your hatchling turtle.

#### IMPORTANT

Never overfeed a turtle and make sure that 20-30% of the water volume is changed with fresh RO or dechlorinated water. This method is particularly suited to keeping the Common and Razor Backed Musk Turtle.