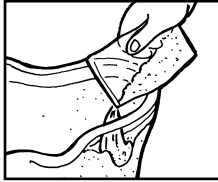


Setting Up Your Ant Zone

Follow these instructions to prepare your Ant Zone. If you prepare it before your ants arrive, they will have a comfortable home to begin exploring right away.

1. Pour the sand into the narrow channel that surrounds the central island of the Ant Zone. Be sure to save the extra sand; you'll need it later to cover your Ant Zone's central island.



2. Make Sugar Cement. This mixture, which you add to the sand, is an important nutrient for the ants. It also makes it easier for the ants to create their tunnels (see #5).

Pour $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of water into a glass.

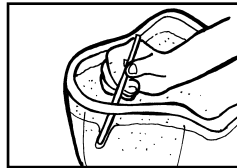
Add 1 tablespoon of white refined sugar.

Stir until all the sugar is dissolved.

3. Use the water dropper to squirt the solution into the sand piled in the vertical walls of the Ant Zone. Squirt two full droppers of solution into an area, then move on to the next section.



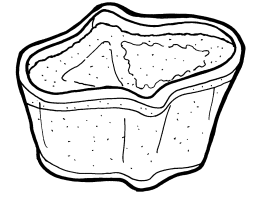
4. When the sand is thoroughly dampened, push the tubular tunnel starters into the sand as far as you can.



5. Place the Ant Zone on a sunny windowsill. As the water evaporates, the sugar will cement the sand grains. This turns the sand into a soil that is very much like the kind the ants are used to tunneling through. Your ants will be able to create a complex maze of tunnels as they do in their natural habitat.

Note: Once you put the ants in the Ant Zone, do not keep it in direct sunlight!

6. When the sand in the channel has dried, spread the remaining sand over the surface of the central island and dampen it with the rest of the Sugar Cement.



7. Carefully remove the tunnel starters. Make sure you keep the tunnel entrances clear of loose sand so the ants can have a place to start digging.

Now your ants' new home is ready!

When your ants arrive :

8. Remove the stopper and gently pour the ants into the Ant Zone. Watch as these curious creatures quickly investigate their new home.
9. Use the tweezers to place the water dish in the sand of the central island. Push the dish into the sand so it is just about level with the sand surface. Use your water dropper to fill the dish to the top.

Your ants will be thirsty after their long trip, so you will want to refill the water dish several times. When they have had enough water, the ants will go off to explore, tunnel, and look for food. Remove the dish and clean it off for the next use.
10. Place a few seeds or small pieces of granola cereal in the Ant Zone.
11. Place the cover over the Ant Zone and push it down carefully. Fit the magnifier into position on the lid and snap it down gently.
12. Place your Ant Zone on a counter or tabletop where it won't get direct sunlight and won't get knocked over.

Ant Answers

1. How do I get my ants?

Send for your supply of ants using the Ant Certificate in this guide. You can also find your own ants.

Caution: Don't mix ants of different species or colonies.

2. When will I receive the ants that I order?

Under ordinary conditions, you should receive your ants within three to four weeks from the time you mail your Ant Certificate. We will send your ants by mail upon receipt of your order. If the weather is extremely cold, there may be a one week delay in order to protect the ants. If you do not receive your ants within that time, call toll free (877) 864-2207 to inquire about your ants.

3. Do many ants die when they are shipped through the mail?

Some of the ants will die during shipment. However, we consider this when we send the shipment and send many more ants than are needed for your habitat. If you live in a cold area, watch for the mail delivery. You don't want the ants waiting outside in a freezing cold mail box.

4. Will I receive a queen with my ants?

There is a federal regulation controlling the handling of ant queens. All the ants that we send will be workers. The workers are female ants that cannot reproduce. Even without a queen, these ants are amazing creatures to watch. If you find your own ants, you can look for the queen, eggs, and larvae.

5. Is the Ant Zone escape-proof?

The Ant Zone's escape-proof design, with its curved top edge, works beautifully. Try to prevent ants from piling up sand near the curved lip. This gives them the opportunity to climb out. If you keep the cover on, they can't escape, but you'll want to remove it from time to time—taking the cover off gives you an incredible opportunity to study ants up close.

6. Is there enough air in the Ant Zone?

Yes. There are small vents built into the magnifier lid. They are too small to allow the ants to escape, but provide plenty of air.

7. How long will my ants live?

With proper care they can live as long as six months.

ANT CARE

DO:

1. Give the ants fresh water every day. Natural, unchlorinated spring water is best.
2. Give ants the sugar-and-sand mixture for their nutrition. You can also feed your ants a small "meal" once a week. They will enjoy the inside "meat" of sunflower seeds, dead bugs, and just about anything else. Experiment with a few very **tiny** pieces of corn flakes or granola, dry dog food, fruit tree leaves, or apple. Be sure to keep their habitat clean. Use your tweezers to remove the leftovers from their meals.
3. Keep the Ant Zone on a counter or table. Avoid high traffic areas where it might get knocked over. If the Ant Zone gets knocked over, pick up the ants with the tweezers and put them back in the habitat.
4. Keep the habitat at room temperature. The temperature should stay between 65°F and 80°F (18°C and 27°C). The warmer the temperature, the more active the ants. They will also be more active in darkness because it is more like their underground home.

DON'T:

1. **CAUTION: Don't touch the ants. They may bite and sting to protect themselves! The sting may be painful and cause swelling, especially for those allergic to stinging insects.**
2. Don't overfeed or over-water your ants. If you overfeed the ants, the food can go bad and this can kill your ants.
3. Don't shake the habitat. It will disturb your ants and might destroy their tunnels. The more careful you are, the easier it will be for your ants to adjust.

