INSIDE FLAP • SAND & SAFETY RULES

Which Sand & Crew to Pick

Store Recommendations for Reptiles vs. Inverts

1. For Reptiles: Quartz Sand & Clay

Zoo Med ReptiSand, Exo Terra Stone Desert & Excavator Clay: We recommend pure quartz sand and clay for reptiles — holds natural tunnels and won't clump if swallowed!

2. For Isopods & Millipedes: Calcium Sand

CaribSea Reptilite: Even though the bag pictures lizards, we recommend calcium sand for Isopod & Millipede dirt (10% aragonite buffers soil pH & builds strong shells)!

3. Arid & Snake Tanks: Skip Drainage

Skip Layer 4 (HydroBalls & Mesh) in arid or burrowing snake tanks and pack **4–5" of soil straight on the bottom glass** so diggers don't get trapped under the mesh!

4. Molting Pets & Cuttlebone

Never put protein-hungry **Dairy Cows** with Tarantulas, Scorpions, or Millipedes — use **Springtails** (or **Dwarf Whites**, the gentlest choice). Keep **Cuttlebone** on the soil!

Tortoise Note: Hermann's, Russian & Sulcata Tortoises need a spacious open **Tortoise Table or Floor Pen** with 4–6" of Reptisoil + Cypress/Coco — not a glass aquarium!

BACK COVER • TAKE THIS TO THE AISLE

Bioactive Aisle Checklist

BASE SOIL, BARK & DRAINAGE

- [ ] Zoo Med Reptisoil (10qt or 24qt — see Cover Chart)
- [ ] Zoo Med ReptiBark (Fir) or Forest Floor (Cypress)
- [ ] Zoo Med Eco Earth (Loose Bag or Compressed Brick)
- [ ] HydroBalls / Clay Drainage Balls + Mesh (Tropical)

SAND, LEAF LITTER & BIOACTIVE FURNISHINGS

- [ ] ReptiSand / Stone Desert / Excavator Clay (Arid)
- [ ] CaribSea Reptilite Calcium Sand (Isopod/Millipede Mix)
- [ ] Zoo Med Sphagnum Moss + Leaf Litter (Oak / Magnolia)
- [ ] Rotting Hardwood + Cork Bark Flats + Cuttlebone

LIVE CLEAN-UP CREW & WATER PREP

- [ ] 1× 8oz Live Tropical Springtail Culture
- [ ] 1–2 Cultures (10–25 ct) Stocked Isopods (See Inside)
- [ ] Zoo Med Reptisafe (Dechlorinate All Soil & Mist Water!)
- [ ] Live Terrarium Plants + Full-Spectrum Plant LED

MY BIOACTIVE TANK & CREW LOG

Tank Size & Recipe: _____

Isopod Species Added: _____

Date Seeded: _____

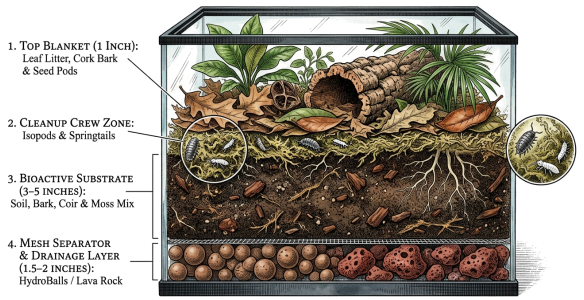
Critter Cabana & Cascade Pet Supply

Need help picking the right isopods, plants, or bag count for your tank? Ask our reptile team anytime!

CRITTER CABANA & CASCADE PET SUPPLY • DIY GUIDE

Bioactive Substrate & Isopods

Self-Cleaning Terrarium Recipes & Clean-Up Crews



What Is Bioactive? A layered natural substrate seeded with live **Isopods & Springtails** that eat waste, stop mold, aerate plant roots, and keep your terrarium fresh!

HOW MUCH TO BUY (FOR 3.5–5" DEPTH)

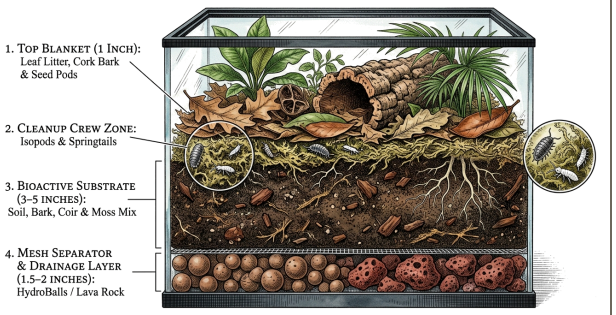
10G / 12×12" Inverts / Pods	**1× 10qt Reptisoil** + **1× 4qt Bark** + **1× Leaf Litter** (~12 qt)
18×18" / 20L Crestie / Frog	**1× 24qt Reptisoil** (or 2× 10qt) + **1× 8qt Bark/Coco** (+ 2× HydroBalls)
40B / 36×18" Python / Dragon	**2× 24qt Reptisoil** + **1× 24qt Bark** (or **2× 10lb ReptiSand** for Arid)
4×2×2' / 120G Adult Boa / Beardie	**3–4× 24qt Reptisoil** + **1–2× 24qt Bark** (or **3–4× 10lb ReptiSand**)

OPEN FOR 4-LAYER MAP, 3 RECIPES & ISOPOD GUIDE →

STEP 1 • HOW LAYERS WORK

The 4 Bioactive Layers

Target 3.5" to 5" of Soil for Healthy Roots & Burrows



Layer 1: Leaf Litter & Moss Cap — Top 1" Blanket

Oak, Magnolia, or Sea Grape leaves + Sphagnum moss patches + Cork bark flats. Locks in surface moisture and feeds your Clean-Up Crew!

Layer 2: Bioactive Soil Recipe — 3–5" Main Bed

Your Tropical, Arid, or Invert mix (see Center Panel) pre-dampened with dechlorinated water so it holds a squeeze without dripping.

Layer 3: Substrate Barrier Mesh — 1 Divider Sheet

Non-toxic screen mesh placed over the drainage balls so soil never washes down into the water reservoir.

Layer 4: HydroBalls Drainage — Bottom 1.5–2"

Expanded clay balls or washed gravel catch extra misting water so plant roots never rot. (*Skip Layers 3 & 4 in Arid/Snake tanks!*)

Corner-Pour Watering Trick: Pour a cup of **Reptisafe** water into the corners so moisture wicks up from below while the top stays dry under your pet's belly!

STEP 2 • MIX YOUR BAG RATIO

3 Store-Shelf Recipes

1 Part = Any Scoop, Cup, or Bag Ratio

1. Tropical Rainforest Mix

60–90% RH

Crested Geckos • Dart & Tree Frogs • False Chameleons • Ball Pythons • Rainbow Boas • Tropical Tarantulas

40% Reptisoil	30% Bark	20% Coco	10%

- **4 Parts** — **Zoo Med Reptisoil** (or Zilla Jungle Mix)
- **3 Parts** — **ReptiBark** (Fir) or **Forest Floor** (Cypress)
- **2 Parts** — **Zoo Med Eco Earth** (Expanded Coco Fiber)
- **1 Part** — **Sphagnum Moss** (+ HydroBalls & Mesh below)

Best Crew: Dwarf White (#1 for Frogs/Geckos), **Powder Orange/Blue**, or **Zebra / Cubaris** + **Springtails**

2. Arid & Burrowing Mix

30–50% RH

Leopard Geckos • Bearded Dragons • Western Hognoses • Corn & Milk Snakes • Arid Tarantulas

50% Reptisoil	30% Sand	10%	10%

- **5 Parts** — **Zoo Med Reptisoil** (or Zilla Desert Mix)
- **3 Parts** — **ZM ReptiSand** or **Stone Desert** (Pure Quartz)
- **1 Part** — **Zoo Med Excavator Clay** (Holds firm burrows)
- **1 Part** — **Sphagnum Moss / Cypress** (Under water dish & hide)

Best Crew: Powder Orange / Blue (*P. pruinosus*) or **Dalmatian / Koi** (*P. scaber*) w/ damp moss patch!

3. Pod & Millipede Mix

EDIBLE FLOOR

Giant Millipedes • Dairy Cow, Zebra, Magic Potion, Cubaris & Dwarf White Colonies

55% Reptisoil	20% Wood	15%	10%

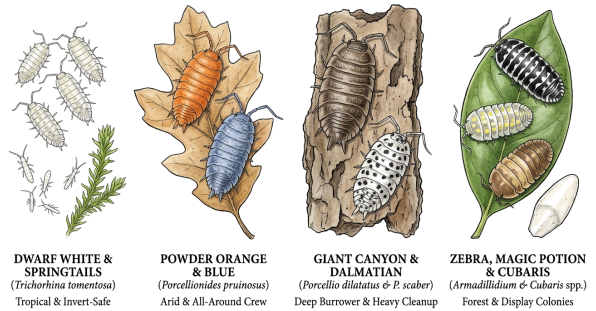
- **5.5 Pts** — **Zoo Med Reptisoil** (Organic humus & peat base)
- **2 Parts** — **Rotting White-Rot Hardwood** (Edible wood)
- **1.5 Pts** — **Crushed Oak / Magnolia Leaves** (+ 1" top cap)
- **1 Part** — **CaribSea Reptilite Calcium Sand** (10% shell boost!)

Best Crew: Zebra / Magic Potion, **Cubaris**, **Dairy Cow**, or **Dwarf White** (gentlest around molters)!

STEP 3 • PICK YOUR CLEAN-UP CREW

Stocked Isopod Selector

Pair 1× 8oz Springtails + 1–2 Isopod Cultures (10–25 ct)



1. Dwarf White (*T. tomentosa*) — Tropical & Gentlest Invert Pick

Tiny (3–4mm) blind soil burrowers for 70–90% humidity. **Gentlest choice around molting pets** (or use Springtails only with heavy molters) & a favorite snack for **Dart Frogs**!

2. Powder Orange & Powder Blue (*P. pruinosus*) — #1 Arid & All-Around

Fast, hardy cleanup crew that handles drier setups (40–80% RH). Top pick for **Leopard Geckos, Bearded Dragons, Corn Snakes, Hognoses & Ball Pythons** (keep a damp moss corner)!

3. Dalmatian / Koi (*P. scaber*) & Giant Canyon (*P. dilatatus*)

Spotted *P. scaber* fits semi-arid to humid setups; deep-burrowing **Giant Canyons REQUIRE moist lower soil (60–80% RH) & a damp moss patch** under cork bark (not for bone-dry desert tanks!).

4. Zebra, Magic Potion (*Armadillidium*) & *Cubaris* — Forest & Display

Colorful roly-polies and banded *Cubaris* that love cork bark, oak leaves, and cuttlebone — awesome in forest terrariums or desktop display bins!