



Note: Due to small parts this product is not suitable for children under 3 years. Keep these instructions with the product.

Congratulations with your T-Farm

Here you have a very unique product! We are pleased with this new Ant Farm within our range. We hope that you are excited to commence this new hobby. We would like to provide you some instructions and advice to help get you started.

Prepare your T-Farm

- 1.) Keep the vents closed in the T-Farm. First fill the bottom all the way to the brim with sand.
- 2.) Make a portion of the sand slightly moist with bottled water. (eg, only the right hand portion). Add the first time approximately 40 ml.
- 3.) Then add the decorative gravel to your outer world/arena compartment. You can further decorate it to your own taste. Please be careful with natural materials (i.e. garden soil, plants, etc) as these could lead to the possible development of mold in your T-Farm.
- 4.) Once the top has become dry, place the ant colony (including tube) in the arena.
- 5.) Keep the sand at all times slightly moist. For example, by using the supplied pipette. Check this weekly and just add a few ml of water if needed (in the selected side).
- 6.) Close the lid tightly and keep the four connection holes closed with the caps.

Instructions

- 1.) Probably your ants will not move immediately to the sand part. Each colony responds differently, it may vary from a few days to several months (or even years) before the ants make their nest in the sand. So raising your own ant colony really requires some patience.
- 2.) It is likely that the first ants use the sand in order to protect their nest, they will then pick up sand and place it into the opening of the nest tube. That is very good and proper behaviour. Try to help the colony also by keeping the test tube dark (i.e. foil, cloth, cardboard, protection sleeve available from our website).
- 3.) Never move a colony out of the test tube by tapping upon it as the stress this causes can lead to the colonies death. This method of moving a colony can only be performed with large colonies of at least 30-50 workers.
- 4.) Please ensure there is sufficient ventilation in the T-Farm's connections and lid. Opening every week when providing care for the ants is satisfactory for their ventilation needs.
- 5.) The four ports can be used to add water or food (upper two) and if the colony has become very large (after one or several years) you can also use these ports for connecting additional Ant Farms or arenas.
- 6.) Check humidity weekly, give a starting colony a few fruit flies in the week. Provide always fresh sugar water and/or honeydew.
- 7.) Give the *Messor barbarus* ants also seeds, always start with small quantities (just a few).
- 8.) If there is condensation in the upper chamber then your ant farm is too moist. Dry as well as possible and add less (frequently) moisture.
- 9.) It is not necessary to keep the sand chamber dark. The ants can block the light with sand if they wish. However it can be fun to make a part darker with a cloth or piece of foil (available on our website) so that it is more likely that the ants make their nest there. Then occasionally move it away to take a close look.
- 10.) You can experiment with food (fruit, other insects, etc), but always be careful and start with very small amounts.
- 11.) We provide two weeks guarantee on the life of the queen.

If over time there are still questions, please feel free to contact me. I aim to respond as quickly as possible to each question.

Lots of fun!

Best regards,

Ant's Kingdom

JP Oudenampsen | owner