

The Big One – Mantis Edition Setup Guide

www.mantishouse.co.uk

Thank you for choosing The Big One – Mantis Edition! This kit has everything you need to create a natural, bioactive home for your praying mantis. Follow these steps to get started:

1. Prepare the Enclosure

- Make sure the enclosure is clean and secure.
- Place it somewhere stable, away from direct sunlight or cold drafts.

2. Drainage Layer

- Add a 1–2 cm layer of Hydro Rocks to the bottom.
This stores moisture and helps regulate humidity.
- Place the black membrane fabric on top of the rocks to separate the substrate.

3. Substrate Layer

- Pour the substrate on top of the membrane.
- Use a deeper layer if you're adding live plants.

4. Planting

- Gently remove the terrarium plant from its pot, taking care not to damage the roots.
- Make a hole in the substrate, place the plant in, and pat the soil down firmly.
- Lightly water the plant to help it settle.

5. Springtails

- Open the springtail tub inside the enclosure (they jump!).

- Empty the contents onto the substrate — the soil also contains springtail eggs for a long-term clean-up crew.
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6. Add Décor

- Scatter orchid bark and lichen moss as desired.
 - Add seed pods, heads, and vines to create hiding spots and climbing areas.
 - Make sure décor is stable so it won't collapse on your mantis.
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7. Heating & Lighting

- Attach the included heat mat to the outside of the enclosure.
 - Use the thermostat to keep temperatures safe and steady. 26-30C – 26C Ideal.
Please check the Praying mantis care guide and note this is species dependant.
<https://www.mantishouse.co.uk/praying-mantis-care-guide>
 - Lighting is optional, but a natural day/night cycle is recommended.
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8. Water & Humidity

- Mist lightly as needed to maintain the recommended humidity for your species.
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9. Final Setup

- Add a small water source (such as droplets from misting).
 - Keep humidity and temperature suitable for your mantis species.
 - Allow the enclosure to settle for 24 hours before introducing your mantis.
 - Check the Fly hatching guide for food set up
<https://www.mantishouse.co.uk/general-clean>
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✅ Your mantis now has a safe, bioactive home ready to explore!