



RAT CARE GUIDE: HOUSING

CAGE

Size: Two cubic feet per rat (minimum).

Material: Wire cages are ideal, as they provide the ventilation, size, and height needed for rats to thrive. Rats do best in taller cages rather than wider cages, because they love to climb. Bar spacing should be 1/2 inch or less for baby or small rats and one inch or less for adult rats. **Cover the wire shelf floors of cages with fleece or something similar to help prevent injury and bumblefoot.**

Example

A cage 16.5 inches long, 22.5 inches wide, and 32 inches high is suitable for one–three rats. It should be tall and have several levels. A cage 31 inches long, 20 inches wide, and 54 inches high is suitable for up to nine rats. Fleece lining is optional when levels are solid. The bigger the better!

BEDDING

Good

- CareFresh
- Shredded paper
- Paper towels
- Yesterday's News (paper pellets)
- Fleece

Bad

- Cedar
- Pine
- Corn cob
- Saw dust
- Clay cat litter

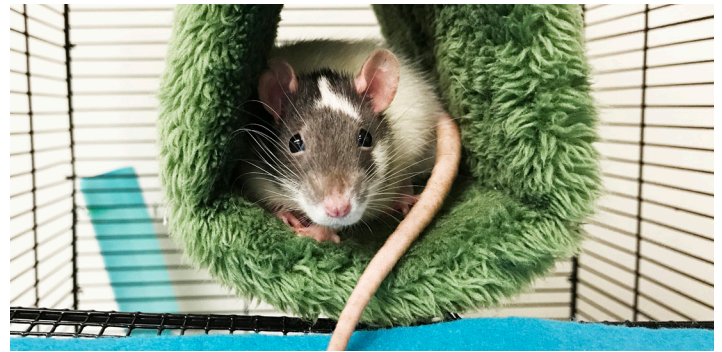


BEDDING TIP

Sometimes bedding that works for one rat will not work for another; some rats have allergies to certain beddings. Avoid all wood-based beddings due to the general sensitivity of rats.

FURNISHINGS

Decking out your rat cage with the essentials, plus an assortment of fun stuff to do, is incredibly important for the happiness and well-being of your rats. Rats are incredibly smart creatures and can get bored easily. It is ideal to change out the toys and furnishings for them, in addition to providing a variety and number of items.



Why chew toys? Rats are rodents which means their teeth constantly grow. They require chew toys to gnaw on in order to keep their teeth trim.

Essentials

- Water bottle
- Food dish
- Shelter (box, igloo, etc.)
- Hammocks
- Chew toy (wood, lava)

Fun Stuff

- Tunnels
- Bird toys
- Treat balls
- Lava landings
- Yucca
- Pet beds
- Ladders
- Cardboard