

Dragons 101

CLEANING DAY!

Cleaning your cage and bathing your Dragons



Introduction

Since deep cleaning your cage is not a quick and easy chore, it is the perfect time for beardie bath day too! Since it's recommended to let your reptile soak for at least 10-15 minutes (when using Electrolyte soak), take this time to clean their house! This is something that should be done every other week, but can be done more or less depending how frequently you clean up behind them.

Bathing your Dragon

Anywhere from the kitchen sink to a bubbling foot bath can be used to bathe your Bearded Dragon, as long as the temperature is right! We use a thermometer and try to keep the water between 90-95F. Electrolyte soak is highly recommended for all baths if your beardie tends to drink their bathwater. This adds extra nutrients to the water, making it more beneficial to reptiles (<https://www.chewy.com/zoo-med-electrolyte-soak-reptile/dp/344979>). Always allow your beardie time to drink before bathing. Once they've had their fill, use an extra soft bristle toothbrush, like a baby toothbrush, and dip it into your soap or cleaning solution (Two great and completely reptile safe soap options: <https://www.beardeddragon.co/products/natural-dragon-wash-soap> & https://store.beautifuldragons.com/Beardie_Soap/p6073015_20424162.aspx). Gently scrub your beardie to remove all debris. If more soap is needed, rinse the toothbrush and dip into the soap again (we typically pour a bit of soap into the lid to make it easier). Rinse your reptile under warm running water to avoid them potentially ingesting the soap.

Deep Cleaning the Enclosure

Remove everything from the enclosure, putting clean items to the side and sitting dirty items in hot soapy water to soak. Vacuum out all feces, food particles, and shed. Spray down the inside of the enclosure and wipe clean. Allow 10-15 minutes to dry (with lights on) before replacing cleaned items. For the health and safety of all of our reptiles, we clean the

enclosures, slate, etc. with a Vet Strength disinfectant that kills **all** bacteria that could make your reptile sick, including Coccidia. There are a few different cleaners on the website listed below that do a great job at cleaning and disinfecting, but this is the only one that is proven to eliminate Coccidia in the tank. No, our beardies are not carrying this bacteria, we just live by “Better Safe than Sorry” when it comes to all of our babies (<https://www.beardeddragon.co/products/coccidal-concentrated-disinfectant>).

Spot Cleaning the Enclosure

Once a week we go through and spot clean the enclosures. This involves removing the dragon for their bath time and vacuuming the enclosure. If there are any “stains” that won’t vacuum up, spot clean with your disinfecting spray. This is basically the same as deep cleaning BUT only where it’s needed. The same as before, allow 10-15 minutes of lighted dry-time before reintroducing your beardie. *Keep in mind that most reptiles do not like change. It’s best to find a perfect setup that fits with their decor and leave it that way -- always putting everything back in the same spot after each cleaning. **P.S.** Always remove their feces as soon as possible. We aren’t the only ones that don’t like the smell of it! It also makes cleaning days a lot easier too, you’ll have less “stains” to spot clean.