



# Watch Ants Dig REAL Tunnels!

## Ant Hill™ Instruction Guide



- Please read the instructions before use.
- Adult setup is required.
- Expect setup to take 15 minutes (plus time for collecting your ants!).



### **WARNING:**

**CHOKING HAZARD**-Small parts.  
Not for Children under 3 years.

[InsectLore.co.uk](http://InsectLore.co.uk)

## 1. Let's Get Started!

- A) In these instructions, we provide steps on how to collect your own ants. If you do not wish to collect your own, live ants are occasionally available at [InsectLore.co.uk](http://InsectLore.co.uk) between May and August.
- B) Your Ant Hill™ comes with everything you need to get started (apart from the ants!). It's easy and fun to care for your ants!
- C) We recommend collecting between 25 and 35 ants for your Ant Hill™.
- D) Once collected (or delivered), place the ants in the refrigerator for 10-15 minutes. This cooling period will slow down your ants and make it easier to transfer them into the Ant Hill™. Do NOT put your ants in the freezer. Now it's time to prepare their new home!

## 2. Fill the Ant Hill™ with Sand

- A) Snip off a small corner of the bag of sand.
- B) Measure out approximately 50ml of water.
- C) Remove the lid of the Ant Hill™ and have the flat side of the habitat facing you. Locate the small "half funnel" opening/hole at the top of the sandy mountain.
- D) Gently pour 3 - 5cm of sand into the back FLAT portion of your Ant Hill™ (Figure 1). Don't worry if a little sand falls on the front, rounded side of the Ant Hill™.
- E) Locate the sand rod and use it to compact the sand. Be sure to push the sand into the corners of the Ant Hill™. Compacting the sand allows for more sand to fit inside the back panel and gives the ants more sand to dig! **Helpful Hint:** Gently tap the base of the Ant Hill™ against the countertop or tabletop to allow the sand to settle even further.
- F) Using your pipette, add water to this layer of sand. You should expect to use about 10 full pipettes of water per layer (Figure 2).

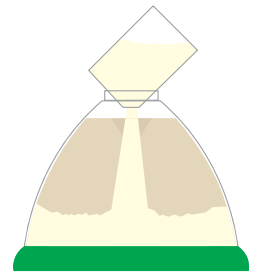


Figure 1

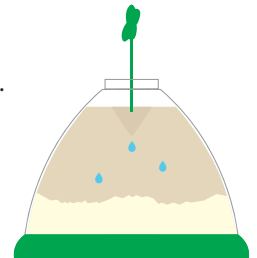


Figure 2



G) Repeat steps D, E, and F until the sand is flush with the top of your Ant Hill™.



- We provide enough sand, to complete the project twice, so there will be at least half left, once the Ant Hill™ is full.
- You can expect to add the entire 50ml of water to your sand, and it should be a “sandcastle texture” by the time setup is completed.

### 3. Time to Add Your Ants!

- A) While the ants are cooling, now is a good time to give them a head start with tunnelling. Open the lid and insert the sand rod into the back of the habitat - about 8 - 10cm into the sand. Carefully pull the Sand Rod straight back out, leaving a “starter tunnel” for the ants to begin excavating and exploring (Figure 3). **Helpful Hint:** We recommend adding your ants soon after the Ant Hill™ has been set up, while the sand is at the right consistency.
- B) After cooling in the refrigerator for 10-15 minutes, the ants are ready to be transferred. Slowly tip and gently tap the container with the ants into the “half funnel” in the top of the Ant Hill™. Replace the lid and push down to make sure it is a tight fit.
- C) Your ants may seem sluggish at first, but don't worry, soon they will find their way around the Ant Hill™ and will begin digging tunnels!
- D) Don't worry if some sand falls in on top of the ants, they will soon dig their way out!
- E) **Caution:** do not touch or handle the ants as they may bite on occasion!

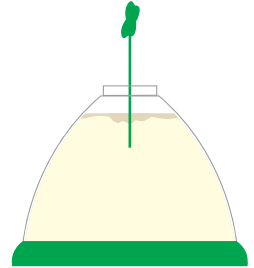


Figure 3

### 4. Caring for Your Ants

- A) **Food:** Once every 2-3 days, feed your ants one sunflower seed, or a piece of celery, apple, or carrot that is no bigger than a sunflower seed. Open the lid of the habitat and drop the tiny piece of food into the Ant Hill™. Be careful not to block the entrance to their tunnels by placing it to one side of the half funnel! Once that piece of food has been consumed, you can add another tiny piece of fruit or seed.
- B) Tiny, infrequent portions are key. **Do not overfeed your ants!**
- C) Once every 2-3 days use your pipette to add 2-3 drops of water into the back of the Ant Hill™ and onto the sand. **Do not overwater your ants!**

## General Tips

- A) Keep your Ant Hill™ at room temperature.
- B) Keep your Ant Hill™ out of the sun.
- C) Try not to jostle the Ant Hill™ excessively, as rough handling can collapse the tunnels.
- D) When taking videos of your ants, use 2x zoom!



## How to Collect Your Own Ants!

- A) Find a small, clean plastic container and lid (the smaller the better as this will aid in transferring them to your Ant Hill™).
- B) It's time to go and find your ants! A warm, sunny day will help, but once you spot one or two, a nest will not be far away! Try looking under plant pots, rocks, shrubs or in small holes near to a wall edge.  
**Top Tip:** If you see grainy soil on the top layer of an outside potted plant, chances are there is a nest inside! You can use a spade to gently encourage them to the surface.
- C) Place your small container on the floor as close to the nest as possible.
- D) To encourage the ants into the container, place some sugar or breadcrumbs into the base and the ants will 'sniff' it out in no time!
- E) Now leave this tasty treat alone for at least an hour - the ants will use this time to source the food and as time passes more and more ants will join the hunt!  
**Alternative Method:** You could use a bug-friendly vacuum to collect the ants!
- F) Once a few ants are within the container, seal this and place in the refrigerator, following Step 3 of our instructions.

## Tips When Collecting Your Ants

- A) Do not collect ants from multiple locations. These may be from a different nest and your ants won't get along!
- B) When you are ready to release your ants, release them back from where they were collected.



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