QUEEN BEE
greenscapes
bringing nature indoors

CLOSED TERRARIUM CARE GUIDE

A closed terrarium is a sealed living landscape that looks after itself. Moisture cycles through the glass, the plants grow slowly, and the world inside settles into its own rhythm. Your part is simple: good light, very little water, and a little restraint. Lid on and admire it.

Light
Bright, indirect light is all it needs. A well-lit room where daylight comes in without landing directly on the glass is ideal. Direct sun through glass overheats a sealed terrarium quickly, and the plants will suffer for it. If your space is on the darker side, a USB LED display light can add a little extra light, but it isn't a grow light and doesn't replace bright natural light.

Watering
Let the glass guide you. A healthy closed terrarium has light fogging on the glass in the morning and evening. If the glass has stopped fogging, add a spoonful of water to the soil, then wait and watch before adding more. One spoonful at a time is always better than too much at once. Overwatering is the most common cause of trouble in a closed terrarium, so when in doubt, wait.

Condensation and airflow
Some condensation is completely normal. It means the cycle is working. If the glass stays heavily fogged for days, or you see water running down the inside, lift or remove the lid for an hour a day until the terrarium settles back to light fogging in the morning and evening.

Springtails
Every Queen Bee Greenscapes terrarium has springtails living in it. They're tiny bugs, and they're the terrarium's clean-up crew. They eat decaying matter, keep mould under control, and put nutrients back through the soil. You may spot them from time to time, but they mostly live in the soil and the undergrowth.

General care
Check in now and then, but resist the urge to fiddle. Plants take a while to settle, and small changes are normal as they establish. Minimal intervention is almost always best.

A few things to avoid
Keep your terrarium away from heaters, air conditioners and vents, which swing the temperature too far. Try not to open the lid often, as it disturbs the balance. And please don't fertilise. The springtails return nutrients to the soil, and added fertiliser makes the plants grow too quickly for the space.

Needing a hand?
If your terrarium needs a prune, a tidy up or some problem solving, Tanya offers a terrarium maintenance service for a fee. Get in touch via the Contact page at queenbeegreenscapes.com.au.