

BRING-HOME CHECKLIST



Set up. Test it. Then bring them home.

RUN THE ENCLOSURE FOR AT LEAST 7 DAYS FIRST.

Test the real lighting + misting schedule. Plant at least 2 weeks ahead so roots establish.

01 ENCLOSURE

- ☐ **Correct size:** minimum 24 × 24 × 48 in (W × D × H). Bigger is better.
- ☐ **Hybrid panels:** screen top + lower front; solid PVC sides/back; clear front door.
- ☐ **Drainage ready:** no standing water.
- ☐ **Substrate:** bioactive mix + drainage layer, or bare bottom with a tray.
- ☐ **Live plants rooted:** pothos, schefflera or ficus; plant at least 2 weeks ahead.
- ☐ **Branches + vines:** varied heights/diameters; connected route from basking to floor.
- ☐ **Springtails + isopods** established if bioactive.
- ☐ **Female lay bin:** 4–6 in damp sand or sand/soil; ready from maturity and kept clean.

02 LIGHTING + HEAT

- ☐ **Linear T5 HO UVB fixture:** spans much of the enclosure width; no coil bulb.
- ☐ **UVB strength:** chosen for mounting height, fixture and screen; target UVI 3 at the back.
- ☐ **Basking bulb:** wattage tested to reach 80–85°F; ceramic socket rated for the bulb.
- ☐ **Separate LED plant grow light** installed.
- ☐ **Timers:** UVB + plants 12h on / 12h off; basking on its own timer.
- ☐ **Digital probe thermometer:** measure at back/head height, not the branch or glass.
- ☐ **UVB measured:** Solarmeter readings at basking height and reachable screen ceiling.
- ☐ **7-day check:** hottest day + coolest night.

03 HYDRATION

- ☐ **Misting system or spray bottle** ready.
- ☐ **Dripper:** moving droplets over leaves.
- ☐ **Fogger + timer:** cool night hours only; verify temperatures drop into the 60s°F.
- ☐ **Digital hygrometer:** placed at the sleeping area; track day and night humidity.
- ☐ **Misting tested:** before lights-on and after lights-off; drinking droplets, daytime dry-out.
- ☐ **Runoff checked:** follow water to the drain; no leaks, pooling or soaked substrate.

04 FEEDING

- ☐ **Feeder insects in hand:** varied, correctly sized insects have arrived before your animal.
- ☐ **Gut load ready:** quality dry mix + fresh greens; feed insects for 24–48h before use.
- ☐ **Separate feeder housing** ready for gut loading.
- ☐ **Arcadia EarthPro-A:** routine light dusting.
- ☐ **Repashy Calcium Plus LoD:** scheduled about twice monthly; no extra D3 or multivitamin.
- ☐ **Cup feeder mounted:** lower two-thirds of the enclosure, away from UVB and heat.

05 MONITORING + RECORDS

- ☐ **Digital scale (0.1 g)** for weekly weights.
- ☐ **Temperature gun:** for quick surface checks; use the probe for body-height air readings.
- ☐ **Log:** weight, feeding, sheds and behavior.
- ☐ **Exotics vet identified:** confirm they treat chameleons and save their contact details.

06 THE FIRST WEEK

- ☐ **Quiet location:** away from TVs, busy hallways and pets' favorite lookout spots.
- ☐ **Sight barrier:** privacy; reduce reflections.
- ☐ **No handling for 7 days:** let them settle.
- ☐ **Other pets managed:** no staring into the cage.
- ☐ **Our contact saved:** ask us questions early.

NOT SURE YOUR SETUP IS READY? SEND US PHOTOS.

Checklist + setup help: ectotherminc.com/checklist/

info@ectotherminc.com | Winchester, Virginia

