

# ANTCUBE

**User manual**



**Starter Set Habitat**

# **Instructions for use**

The **starter set Habitat** was developed for burrowing ant species that live in different habitats or soil grounds.

## **Step 1**

### **Search for a suitable location**

In order not to expose the ants to unnecessary vibrations and temperature fluctuations, a suitable and stable place should be chosen.

Attention:

- do not place near windows
- do not place near radiators
- do not place on vibrating surfaces
- do not place near music equipment
- do not place near noisy machines
- do not place over electrical appliances
- do not place in a room with strong odours (e.g. kitchen)
- do not place in a smoking room

## Step 2

### **Control**

Check the complete contents of the kit to make sure everything is present.

### **Content:**

- 1x ANTCUBE - Arena 20x20x10 - flat
- 1x Ant arena frame 20x20
- 1x Ant arena cover 20
- 1x ANTCUBE - Ant farm 20x20 - standing
- 1x 0,5m tube transparent
- 1x ANTCUBE Red foil 20x20 - self-adhesive
- 1x Substrate 1kg 1x
- 1x Formicarium granulate 200ml
- 1x grid insert - 50mm - stainless steel
- 1x formicarium plug for 50mm hole
- 1x Formicarium plug for 27mm hole
- 1x grid cap stainless steel
- 1x Basin connector for bore 27 and hose 10-16 mm - M25
- 1x Formicarium nut M25 - grey
- 1x Drinking trough 2ml - 360 degrees
- 1x dispenser 2ml - dosable
- 1x Mini thermo - hygrometer analogue - display - hanging
- 1x Ant outbreak protection oil 10ml
- 1x Tweezers spring steel - wide - soft
- 1x Tweezers plastic transparent
- 1x pipette 3ml
- 1x Hand magnifier - 2-fold - 30mm
- 1x Food Mix Set - standard + sponge
- 1x Foam wiper 150x18x2,5mm
- 1x Photo back 20x10

**Please note:** For the Forest and Rainforest Habitat, instead of the grid insert - 50mm- stainless steel, another formicarium plug for 50mm hole is included.

Furthermore, the stainless steel grid cap was replaced by a formicarium cap.

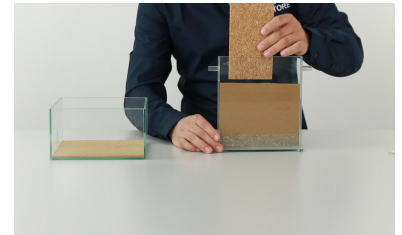
### Step 3

#### **Assembly**

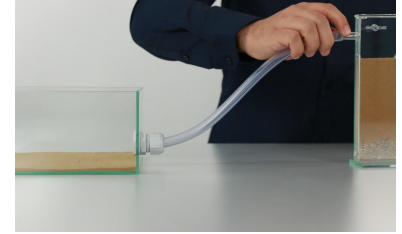
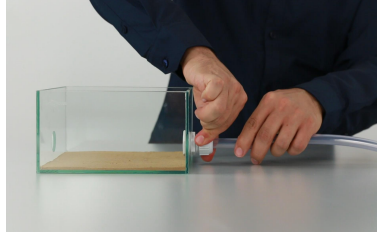
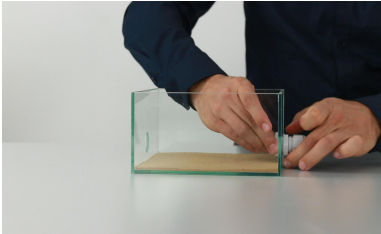
- First, the **ANTCUBE - Arena 20x20x10** - is filled **flat** with the **substrate**. The layer should not be higher than 1-2mm, otherwise there is a risk that the ants will dig themselves in and not use the farm or nest area intended for them.



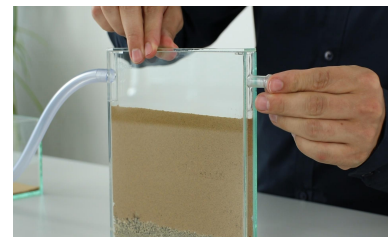
- With the help of an A4 sheet, the **ANTCUBE - ant farm 20x20 - standing** is filled approx. 2-3 cm with the **formicarium granulate**. Then the substrate is placed on top of the granulate. We recommend filling at least half to three quarters of the farm.



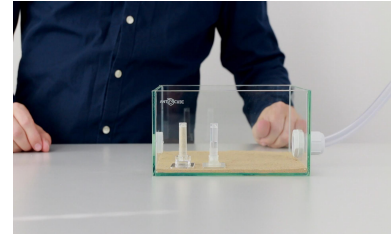
- The **basin connector for hole 27 and hose 10-16 mm - M25** is now screwed to the arena. To do this, the **0.5 m transparent hose** is inserted into the connector and screwed tightly with the **M25 grey formicarium nut**. The end of the hose is now pushed onto the socket of the farm and connected together.



- Use the existing **formicarium plug for the 27mm hole** and the **grid cap or formicarium cap** to close the still open sockets of the arena and the farm.



- **With** the help of the **plastic pipette 3ml**, the **drinker 2ml - 360 degrees** is now filled and food is added to the food **dispenser 2ml - dosable**.  
These are then placed in the front area of the arena. This facilitates food control and makes it easier to see if the containers need to be cleaned.

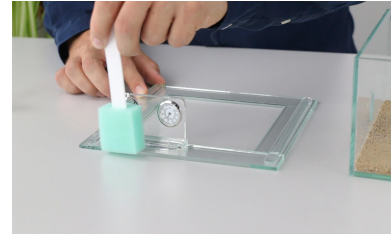


- When everything has been placed correctly, the **mini thermo - hygrometer analogue - display** - is attached to the underside of the frame (**Ameisenarena frame 20x20**) in a **hanging position**. For this purpose, the protective film of the adhesive surface must be removed.

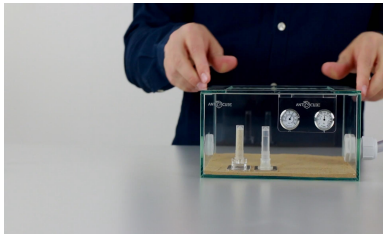
**IMPORTANT:** The thermo - hygrometer must be attached to the inside of the frame and **not to the outside of the frame**, otherwise the frame will not fit on the arena. There is only one attempt at fixing, as the glue holds very well and it is difficult to remove it later.



- The **ant escape protection oil 10ml** is now applied to the inner frame. For this we use the **foam wiper 150x18x2.5mm**. Alternatively, a household cloth or your own finger can be used. The layer should only be applied very thinly!



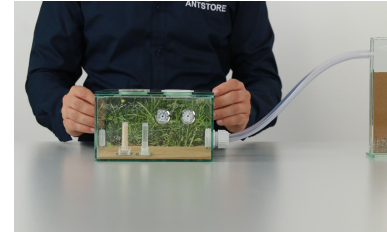
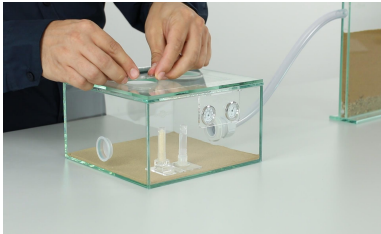
- The frame is placed on the rubberised rim of the arena. Please make sure that the frame is securely closed to the arena.



**The arena is now safe and the animals can no longer escape through the oil!**

If required, the supplied **ant arena cover 20x20**, with the two interchangeable inserts **grid insert - 50mm - stainless steel** and/or **formicarium plug for 50mm hole**, can also be placed on the arena frame.

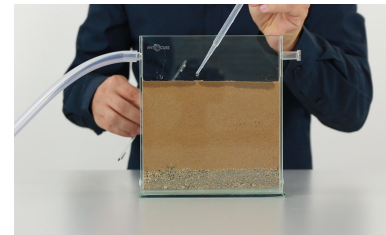
For visual support, we have also included the **20x10 photo back wall for the back of the arena** in the starter set.



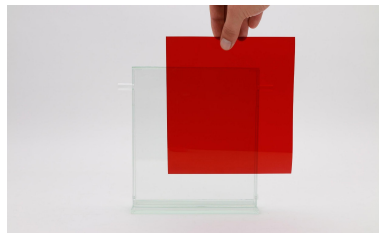
Before the animals are inserted, the farm is moistened. To do this, remove the grid cap/formicarium cap on the side of the farm and insert the pipette.

When filling for the first time without animals, you can simply remove the lid of the farm to insert the water.

**Attention:** The habitats forest and rainforest need a few drops more water for the humidity in the farm. The desert or meadow habitat is only slightly moistened.



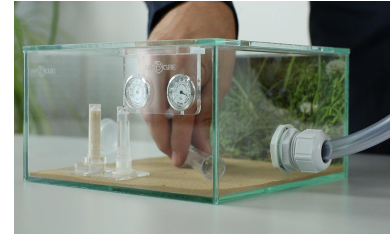
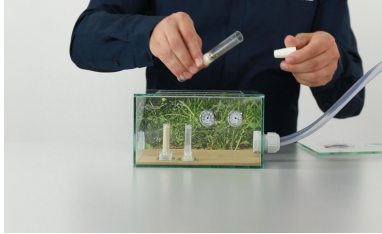
If necessary, the **ANTCUBE - Red Film 20x20 - self-adhesive** can be placed on the front area of the farm to give the ants an underground feel and to give them a chance to build closer to the glass.



## Step 4

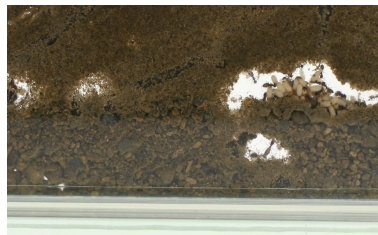
### **Settling the colony**

Now the plug is removed from the nest tube and this is then placed in the arena so that the ants can calmly get used to their new environment and move in.



In order to protect themselves from possible dangers, it often happens in the beginning that the ants close the test tube with soil lying around.

The move into the nest area can sometimes take weeks or even months. When all the ants have moved in, the empty tube can be removed again.



### Explanation of individual components:

The **arena** serves as an exercise area. The animals can transport their waste there and bring their food and water from the arena to the nest.

- The **frame** is placed on the arena as a break-out protection.
- The **cover** is an additional break-out protection. The holes can be closed with **plugs or grid inserts** for ventilation.

The **farm** serves as a nesting area for the animals, where the queen and about 90% of the workers stay with the brood.

- The **hose connector** is suitable for the transition from the arena to the farm and is important for the transport of food and waste.
- The **substrate** is used to create a natural substrate for the animals in the arena.

The **thermo-hygrometer** is used to monitor the temperature and humidity in the arena.

- The **break-out protection oil** additionally serves as protection on the frame. The animals find no adhesion through the oil film and cannot run over the protection.

The tweezers **plastic transparent** are used for gripping solid objects and the **tweezers spring steel - wide - soft** are used for gripping ants so as not to injure them.



- With the **hand magnifier - 2x - 30mm**, small objects can be observed well.



There is a helpful video on our website specifically for the Habitat Starter Set:



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