

# HOW TO TAKE CARE OF WOOD TURTLES?

## Beginner's Guide



75 - 100 gallon tank



60 - 70 degrees F



85 degrees F



Fish, shrimp, insects, worms etc



### Classification

Scientific Name: *Glyptemys insculpta*

Classification: Subspecies under the wood turtle species

### Diverse Subspecies

Approximately **9 distinct subspecies**

Each subspecies with unique characteristics

## The Species Summary

North American wood turtle	Spot legged wood turtle
Central American wood turtle	Brown wood turtle
Furrowed wood turtle	Large nose wood turtle
Blackwood turtle	Colombian wood turtle
Maracaibo wood turtle	

## Wood Turtle Tank Size



75-100 gallon Adults

20-gallon Hatchlings



5 feet x 5 feet x 2 feet pool for Adults

## Basking Dock



- The species is **semi-aquatic**
- Thus they spend a considerable amount of hours soaking heat on a log or platform.
- For an indoor habitat, you have to manage Basking dock

## Lighting Arrangements



2 Lights

A heating lamp

A UV bulb



Heating Lamp Wattage	Distance Between Dock And Heating Lamp
50 watt	6 - 8 inches
70 watt	7 - 9 inches
100 watt	9 - 11 inches
100 watt++	11 - 14 inches

UV Bulb Wattage	Distance Between UV And Dock
2.5% UV	12 inches
5% UV	18 inches

## Water Filter & Tank Heater



A tank filter is very much mandatory to keep the water quality top notch



Owners advise installing a tank water heater to keep the wood turtles warm

## Suitable temperature range

Air Temperature	Water Temperature	Basking Temperature
70 - 80 Degrees Fahrenheit	60 - 70 Degrees Fahrenheit	85 Degrees Fahrenheit

## Wood Turtles Diet

### Animal Protein



### Plant Matter



### Fruits



### Commercial items



### Supplements

- Calcium
- Vitamin D
- Multivitamin

## Health Issues

### Hypovitaminosis

Lack of this mineral leads to hypovitaminosis in wood turtles.

**Symptoms:** Lethargy, appetite loss, swelling of the eyes or ears, pit formation on the eyes, etc.

A balanced meal plan that includes vitamin A can cure this disease in wood turtles.

### Shell Rot And Shell Conditions

It starts with only a cut or scratch on the scute.

**Symptoms:** Shedding, white patches, red or black spots, etc.

Keeping the turtles in a dry enclosure and wiping their shells with antibacterial antibiotics to cure this condition. However, prevention is always preferable to medication in such shell diseases of wood turtles.

### Metabolic Bone Disease

Usually, insufficient UV rays are at the root of this sickness.

**Symptoms:** Swollen legs, Bumps in the leg or bones, Trouble walking, Bumpy scutes, Softening of jaws or shells, etc.

A balanced diet and good quality UV light are essential to fight back this disease.