

# Diamondback Terrapin

## Care Guide For Beginners [Full Guide]



**Tank Size:** Minimum 55 – 65 gallon

**Habitat Setup:** Dock, heater, filter, lamps

**Water Condition:** High salinity

**Diet:** Omnivores (shrimp, feeder fish, worms)



**Scientific Name:** Malaclemys terrapin  
**Common Name:** Terrapin, DB Terrapin  
**Size:** 5 – 11 inches  
**Lifespan:** Up to 40 years  
**Food Habit:** Omnivorous  
**Price Range:** \$170 – \$999  
**Care Level:** Intermediate

### Diamondback Terrapin Appearance

diamond-shaped rings on the carapace.

skin grey with white spots black streaks

upper shell brown, grey, green or black.



### What Is The Ideal Tank Size For Diamondback Terrapins?



a minimum of 55-gallon glass aquarium is perfect for a 6 inches male terrapin. If your male terrapin is larger than this length, go for a bigger tank, about 65 – 75 gallons.



### Do Diamondback Terrapins Need A Basking Dock?

You must place a basking dock when building an indoor habitat for diamondback terrapins. You can buy a commercial basking platform or use rocks, logs, plastics, metal sheets, foams, etc., as basting stations for the turtles.

### Significance Of UV Lights

UV lamps are available at different percentages. 2.5 – 5% UVs are perfect for aquatic and semi-aquatic turtles The lights should be kept on only for 10 hours a day



#### Heating Lamp

The expected basking temperature for terrapins is the 80s to 90s degrees Fahrenheit.



#### Water Filter

Installing a water filter can eliminate the chances of sickness and maintain a healthy environment.



#### Tank Heater

A 250 – 350 watts water heater is enough for warming up a 55 to 65-gallon

### Diet: What Do Diamondback Terrapins Eat?



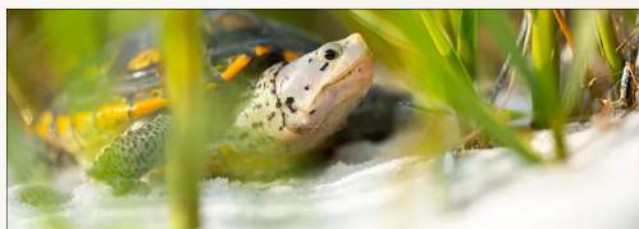
Bloodworm	Crab	Seaweed
Mealworm	Snail	Apple
Marineworm	Smelt	Avocado
Cricket	Prawn	Apricot
Chicken	Asparagus	Blackberry
Beef	Broccoli	Blueberry
Pork	Beet	Mulberry
Tubifex	Brussel sprout	Raspberry
Intestine	Carrot	Strawberry
Animal liver	Corn	Banana
Conch	Cauliflowe	Coconut
Mollusk		Cantaloup

### The common symptoms that indicate sickness in terrapins are,

- Loss of appetite
- Loss of weight
- Lethargy
- Discharge coming from mouth, eyes, and nose
- Foul odor
- Soft spots on the scutes
- Trouble walking
- Trouble breathing
- Wheezing



### The common health issues of diamondback terrapins are,



1. Hypovitaminosis
2. Respiratory Illness
3. Shell Rot
4. Obesity
5. Parasite Attack
6. Metabolic Bone Disease