

# Care Guide

## Leopard Gecko



Species: *Eublepharis macularius*

Lifespan: 10–20+ years

Adult Size: 7–10 inches

Fun fact: They have eyelids (unlike most geckos!) and love floor space over climbing.



### Housing

Minimum Enclosure Size:

- Juveniles: 10–20 gallon
- Adults: 40 gallon (or larger)

They're terrestrial, so floor space > height.

Glass tanks or front-opening PVC enclosures both work well

## Enclosure Setup

Must-haves:

- 3 hides:
  - Warm hide (on hot side)
  - Cool hide (on cool side)
- Humid hide (with moist moss or paper towel for shedding)
  - Rocks, logs, and low decor to explore
- Paper towel or tile for easy cleanup, for babies or rescues

## Substrate

Safe options:

- Paper towels (especially for babies, rescues, or monitoring poop)
  - Non-adhesive shelf liner

For Adults:

- 70/30 mix of top soil and play sand

## Avoid:

- Loose sand or calcium sand (impaction risk)
  - Loose wood chips or bark


## Temps & Heating

Leos NEED uvb

They need belly heat to digest food properly.

Temp Gradient:

- Warm side: 88–92°F (use a thermostat)
  - Cool side: 72–78°F
- Nighttime: Can drop to 68–72°F safely
- Ceramic heat emitter (CHE) for nighttime if it temp drops below 68

 Don't use heat rocks or unregulated bulbs — they can cause burns

Use a thermostat + digital probe thermometer to monitor temps.

## Humidity & Water

- Ideal ambient humidity: 30–40%
- Provide a humid hide to help with shedding
- Clean water dish at all times — shallow and changed daily

If they shed in pieces or retain skin on toes, increase humidity briefly or give a warm soak.

## Feeding

Leopard geckos are insectivores only — no fruits, veggies, or pinkies.

### Staple insects:

- Dubia roaches
  - Crickets
- Black soldier fly larvae
- Mealworms (in moderation)
- Waxworms/superworms (as treats)

Feed in the evening when they're most active.

- Babies/juvies: daily
- Adults: every 2–3 days

### Supplement Schedule:

- Calcium (no D<sub>3</sub>): every feeding
- Calcium w/ D<sub>3</sub>: 1–2x/week
  - Multivitamin: 1x/week

Make sure feeders are gut-loaded (fed nutritious food) before offering.

## ✗ What Not to Do

- Don't cohabitate — they're solitary and will fight
  - No loose sand, no calci-sand, no wood chips
  - Don't use heat rocks — dangerous hotspots
  - Don't skip belly heat — they NEED it to digest
- Don't handle during shed or immediately after eating
- Don't overfeed fatty bugs like waxworms — geckos can get chunky fast

## 💡 Bonus Tips

- They store fat in their tails — a plump tail = healthy gecko
- Shedding can happen every few weeks — provide that humid hide!
  - Watch those little toes — stuck shed can cut off circulation
  - Some will “bark” or chirp if annoyed or startled (adorable but real)