





BEDDING

There are multiple options out there to use as bedding for your rodents. You should strive to pick the best option based on the health of your rats. Please note that applicants planning to use carefresh/variants thereof and fleece for floor bedding instead of a suitable alternative that allows for burrowing will be DENIED. This is for the mental and physical health and safety of our animals.

<p><u>KILN DRIED PINE:</u></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The most common bedding used by breeders. (NOT SAWDUST!). • Affordable. • Absorbs ammonia well and helps to reduce the overall “smell” of your rats. • Can be changed 1-2x per week (depending on the number of rodents you have). • Good for burrowing. <p>RECOMMENDED</p>
<p><u>HEMP & ASPEN:</u></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similar to KDP but significantly more expensive. • Hemp is the best bedding to use for people who may have allergies. • Difficult to source in South Africa <p>RECOMMENDED</p>
<p><u>FLEECE:</u></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Popular option amongst pet rat owners. • Needs to be changed every 2 days MINIMUM, depending on the number of rodents you have. • Fleece absorbs and retains ammonia, and can cause respiratory problems and lung scarring if not changed out frequently enough. • Fleece also needs to be washed in animal safe detergent in order to prevent respiratory complications. • Does not allow for burrowing <p>NOT RECOMMENDED</p>

<p><u>CAREFRESH</u></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Excellent absorption . ● Poor ammonia neutralisation. ● Expensive. ● Needs to be changed frequently. ● Good for burrowing. ● Contains Dioxins¹⁴ <p>NOT RECOMMENDED</p>
<p><u>CORN COB</u></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Goes mouldy quickly when moist. ● Needs to be changed frequently. <p>NOT RECOMMENDED</p>
<p><u>COMPRESSED WOOD/PINE PELLETS:</u></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Great for your litter boxes. ● Expensive if filling a whole cage. ● Absorbs urine and neutralises ammonia well. ● Not good for burrowing. <p>RECOMMENDED</p>
<p><u>SHREDDED PAPER/NEWSPAPER:</u></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Better for nesting material. ● Needs to be changed frequently. ● Absorbs urine but does not neutralise ammonia. <p>NOT RECOMMENDED</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>COCO PEAT:</u></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Great for burrowing ● Absorbs and Neutralises ammonia ● Must be kept moist ● Not suitable for humid climates <p style="text-align: center;">RECOMMENDED</p>
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