

Choose a Guinea Pig Cage Best for your Small Pet

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What Makes a Good Guinea Pig Cage?

Many guinea pig owners don't realize how important housing can be. Because a guinea pig will spend a good deal of her life in her [cage](#), it is imperative that the cage is big enough and outfitted with the proper accessories and supplies.

What should I look for in a cage?

It's important when choosing the right cage for your cavy that you make sure the cage provides enough room for her to play and exercise. The minimum cage sizes are:

One guinea pig: 7-1/2 square feet, or 30" x 36"

Up to four guinea pigs: 13 square feet, or 30" x 76"

Other cage features you should look for include:

- **Safe, escape proof, materials**

The safest cages are made from plastic, wire, stainless steel, or a combination of these materials. Wood cages are easily chewed through and glass cages don't provide enough ventilation.

- **No wire mesh flooring**

Housing your guinea pig on a wire floor will hurt her sensitive feet and can cause a condition called bumblefoot, so if your cage has a wire floor, which many do, be sure to cover it with a [cage mat](#).

- **Latching door or lid**



This will keep your guinea pig in and other animals out.

- **Spacious enough to provide ramps and activity areas**

Though guinea pigs aren't agile and don't climb very well, they do need places to play and explore.

What should I put in the cage?

What you put in the cage is just as important as what size the cage is. A large cage without the necessary accessories is going to be boring for your guinea pig, and it will eventually have a negative effect on her physical and mental state.

The following items should be in your guinea pig's cage:

- Place to hide, such as a nest box, large diameter PVC pipe, and cardboard boxes
- Heavy [ceramic food dish](#) (small enough that he can't climb in it and use it as a toilet)
- [Plastic](#) or [glass](#) water bottle with a metal spout
- [Hay rack](#) or manger to keep hay clean, fresh, and off the floor
- [Aspen wood shavings](#) or [wood fiber](#) bedding
- Ramps and other furniture for him to explore
- [Toys](#) such as [tunnels](#), tubes, [wooden chew toys](#), wood blocks, paper bags, and [hanging bird toys](#)



Be sure that whatever you put in the cage doesn't interfere with the space he needs to run around and exercise.

Where should I put the cage?

The cage should be in a relatively quiet area without a lot of commotion. It should be out of direct sunlight, and the temperature of the room should stay between 65° and 75°F. Temperatures below 50° and over 80° can be dangerous, so you absolutely must place your guinea pig's cage indoors where temperatures are regulated. Be sure to put it in a well ventilated area.

Once you have the perfect cage and setup, be sure to clean the cage daily to keep your guinea pig happy, healthy, and safe.