Create a Reptile Cleaning Supply Tool Kit

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The following items will help create a special tool kit to make cleaning more convenient and efficient. It is crucial that you use the cleaning kit items only for your reptile cage. Reptiles may carry harmful bacteria such as *Salmonella* that can be transmitted to humans through direct contact or through contact with anything contaminated with reptile feces.

Having a dedicated kit of cleaning supplies only for reptile use prevents cross-contamination. Keep and store these items separate from your other household cleaning supplies. Never use sinks or tubs that are used for human bathing or food preparation to clean reptile cages, accessories, and decorations.

Cleaning Tools

- **Back-up cage** - a clean environment for the minutes, hours, or even days your herp must be relocated.
- **Brushes** - small and medium sizes depending on your cage. A toothbrush is good for corners and crevices in decorations.
- **Buckets**
- **Herp-safe terrarium cleaner** - dissolves matter hardened on surfaces. Do not use any products that contain phenol or pine scent.
- **Paper towels**
- **Q-tips, toothpicks, putty knives, and razor blades** - assortment of tools need to reach into the smallest spaces and remove hardened material.
- **Rubber gloves and goggles**
- **Sand-sifter scoop** - removes feces and other debris from sand and other fine particulate substrates.
- **Soap or dishwashing detergent** - do not use any products that contain phenol or pine scent.
- **Sponges** - one set for cleaning, another for rinsing, and a third for disinfecting.

After cleaning your reptile cage, always remember to thoroughly clean and disinfect all the tool kit items you used, including the sink. A good disinfectant is 1 part bleach to 16 parts water (1 cup of bleach per gallon of water). Don't forget to wash your hands as well. By creating a dedicated kit of cleaning supplies, all the necessary items will be conveniently located and stored in one area. This will make cleaning more convenient and safer.

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