



# Syrian Hamster Care Guide

Mesocricetus auratus

Syrian hamsters are the largest of all the species of domesticated hamsters and live in solitude. They come in colors like dove, cream, sable, black, and golden and patterns like banded or dominant spot. Syrian hamsters can also be either long or shorthaired.

Personality varies, but this species tends to be more handleable due to their larger size. However, they also need larger enclosures and accessories. Females are especially known for being hard to please.



A female Syrian hamster

## What They Need

- Enclosure with a secure lid and a recommended 1,000+ square inches of unbroken floor space (600 square inches is the bare minimum)
- Accessible water source
- At least 8-10" of safe bedding (deeper is better, 12"+ is recommended)
- 11-12" diameter wheel with solid running track (larger is better)
- Sand bath with unscented + calcium free reptile sand
- At least 2 opaque hideouts with 2.5"+ entrance hole diameter
  - Multi-chamber hide highly recommended
- Appropriate food mix (high-variety seed-mix and lab blocks)
  - Food can either be offered in a bowl or scattered around!
  - Occasional fresh foods
- More accessories and enrichment like sprays, herbs, bridges, tunnels, and additional substrates



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## Recommended Items List (non-exhaustive)

### Enclosures:

- Niteangel Bigger World (Medium or Large)
- Niteangel Vista (Medium or Large)
- 75+ Gallon Aquariums
- IKEA Pax Hack
- IKEA Linnmon Hack
- Various DIYs

### Wheels:

- Niteangel Silent Spinner (Large)
- Exotic Nutrition Silent Runner (12")
- Bucatstate Acrylic Wheel (12.5")
- Niteangel Acrylic Wheel (Large)

### Bedding:

- Aspen shavings
- Rabbit Hole Hay
- Small Pet Select Paper
- Oxbow Pure Comfort

### Sand:

- ZooMed Reptisand
- Exo-Terra Desert Sand
- CaribSea Super Naturals
- Niteangel Bath Sand

### Hideouts:

- Niteangel Multichamber Hide
- FatPotatCreations (Etsy)

### Diets:

- Bunny Nature HamsterDream Expert (needs additional protein)
- RobinsGourmetFood (Etsy)
- Mazuri Rat + Mouse

## Setup Inspiration (click the pictures to see more!)

Instructions on setting up an enriching enclosure can be found [here](#)





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## Unsafe Items list

- Hamster balls/cars
- Mesh/bar wheels
- SnakShaks/"edible" hides
- Cotton/Kapok nesting material
- Coniferous wood accessories
- Pine/Cedar bedding
  - Unlabeled wood shavings
- Scented paper bedding
- Hamster leashes
- Calcium sand
- Chinchilla bath dust
- Vitamin/wet-tail drops
- Salt licks/mineral chew toys
- CritterTrail/Full Cheeks cages
- And many more!

## Cleaning Guidelines

To maintain your enclosure, we recommend spot-cleaning every week, but cleaning frequency can depend on each hamster's habits. Spot-cleaning can include:

- Wiping/washing the wheel
- Removing soiled bedding and feces
- Sifting the sand bath
- Sweeping surfaces
- Removing empty sprays/other natural enrichment

A 1/3 or 1/2 clean is recommended every few months, and a complete clean should only be done when the hamster passes to mitigate unnecessary stress. More info on a full clean [here!](#)

## Daily Routine

Daily Routines can depend on the individual hamster's habits. This may include:

- Washing and refilling water sources
- Feeding
- Giving fresh food (see below)
- Health checks
  - More information can be found [here](#).

## Fresh Foods

There are a variety of fresh foods that are safe for Syrian hamsters. Fresh food should be fed 2-4 times a week in small portions. A full list of safe produce is available [here](#).