



# TORTOISE HOUSE



A Home For Your Pet Tortoise or Box Turtle

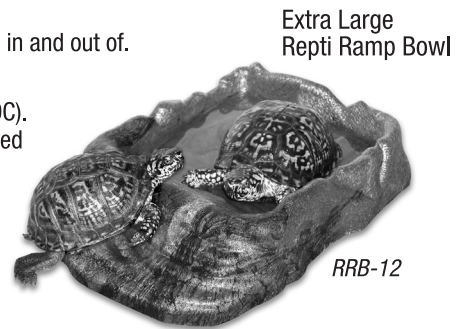
Thank you for purchasing **Zoo Med's NEW TORTOISE HOUSE**. The following instructions will assist you with the assembly of your turtles or tortoise's new home. If you have any questions regarding these instructions or the proper use of this item, please contact our customer service department at [zoomed@zoomed.com](mailto:zoomed@zoomed.com) or by calling **(888) 496-6633 (US and Canada only)**. Customers in other countries, please call **(805) 542-9988**.

## ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS:

See the back of this sheet for complete assembly instructions.

### SETTING UP YOUR NEW TORTOISE HOUSE:

- **RECOMMENDATIONS:** Please note that the instructions below include general set-up information and recommendations for use. It is very important that you learn about the specific needs of your species to create the most appropriate habitat for your pets.
- **FOR USE WITH THE FOLLOWING TORTOISES AND TURTLES:** Your **NEW TORTOISE HOUSE** is ideal for smaller turtle and tortoise species including; Russian Tortoises, Hermann's Tortoises, Hingeback Tortoises, and American Box Turtles. Juveniles of larger species (i.e. Sulcata Tortoises, Leopard Tortoises, and Red-foot Tortoises) can live in the **TORTOISE HOUSE** until they reach an approximate shell length of 6 inches (15 cm).
- **NUMBER OF TORTOISES:** The recommended maximum number of hatchling (baby) tortoises per **TORTOISE HOUSE** is six. For adult tortoises or box turtles, the maximum number of turtles/tortoises per house is two. Remember; you may attach two **TORTOISE HOUSES** together (remove sliding end panels) to double the enclosure size and animal capacity.
- **TORTOISE HOUSE PLACEMENT:** Zoo Med's **TORTOISE HOUSE** is designed for indoor and outdoor use. We recommend keeping the **TORTOISE HOUSE** indoors and occasionally taking it outside on warm sunny days.
- **INDOORS:** Keep the **TORTOISE HOUSE** on a table and out of your family dog's reach. Always keep both lids closed unless you are feeding, watering or inspecting your tortoise/turtle (i.e. for weight or health condition).
- **OUTDOORS:** Place in the garden on mild to warm days only (no rain or cold weather). Place the covered sleeping side and 1/2 of the wire mesh side in the shade, leaving the other half of the "open" mesh side in the sunlight. Always make sure your animals have water in the shaded area. (Remember; keep both lids closed at all times.)
- **SUBSTRATE: (Very Important)** For desert/grassland species of tortoises, we recommend putting newspaper down first and then dried grass hay (e.g. Timothy Grass Hay) for additional substrate, food, and shelter. Desert/grassland species include Russian Tortoises, Sulcata Tortoises, Leopard Tortoises, and Star Tortoises. For tropical/forest species we recommend mixing Zoo Med's Eco Earth® and Forest Floor™ substrates to create the perfect tropical-species substrate. We recommend a substrate depth of 1-2" (2-5 cm) for hatchlings and 3-4" (7-10 cm) for turtles/tortoises with a shell length up to 6 inches (15 cm). Tropical species of tortoises/turtles include Red-foot Tortoises, Hingeback Tortoises, Elongated Tortoises and American Box Turtles.
- **HUMIDITY:** Very important for all species! Consult a good care book on the species you are keeping. Use a humidity gauge and adjust humidity accordingly. Check out our website at [www.zoomed.com](http://www.zoomed.com) for more humidity information.
- **WATER:** Always keep a large "low profile" water dish that is easy for your turtles/tortoises to climb in and out of. We recommend Zoo Med's Extra Large Repti Ramp Bowl (Item# RRB-12).
- **HEAT/HIBERNATION:** Tortoises that DO NOT hibernate need temperatures around 80-85°F (26 -29C). Tortoises (and American Box Turtles) that DO hibernate should have the heat source and lights turned off during winter to simulate hibernation temperatures. Consult a good tortoise/box turtle book to learn about hibernation methods.
- **HEAT/UVB:** To heat your tortoise house, and to provide necessary UVB for optimum shell growth and bone density, we recommend the following options for heat and UVB sources;
  - OPTION 1:** Zoo Med's Powersun 100 or 160 watt heat/UVB lamp.
  - OPTION 2:** Zoo Med's Reptisun 5.0 UVB lamp and a 75 or 100 watt Repti Basking Spot Lamp.



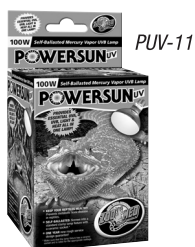
Extra Large Repti Ramp Bowl

RRB-12

The above heat/UVB lamps should be left on for 8-12 hours per day. For night time heat we recommend using Zoo Med's Nocturnal Infrared Heat Lamp or Zoo Med's Repticare® Ceramic Heat Emitter. We recommend using Zoo Med's adjustable Reptile Lamp Stand (Item# LF-20) to allow for the appropriate distance between the lamps and your pets.

### CAUTION:

These lamps should only be used over the wire mesh side of the **TORTOISE HOUSE**; they should not be placed inside or over the covered side of the **TORTOISE HOUSE**.



Powersun 100 Watt

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Repti Basking Spot Lamp   | <input type="checkbox"/> Eco Earth Loose             | <input type="checkbox"/> Digital Terrarium Thermometer   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ReptiSun 5.0 UVB Fluorescent<br>(Available in 15", 18", 24", 36" & 48" Lengths) | <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Floor Substrate      | <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Forest Tortoise Food    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Repti Infrared Heat Lamp  | <input type="checkbox"/> Wipe Out 1 Cage Cleaner     | <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Grassland Tortoise Food |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deep Dome Lamp Fixture  | <input type="checkbox"/> Reptisafe Water Conditioner | <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Box Turtle Food         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ceramic Heat Emitter  | <input type="checkbox"/> Repti Temp 500R Thermostat  | <input type="checkbox"/> Reptile Lamp Stand              |

# ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

Please read all instructions prior to assembly. You will need a Phillips screw driver to complete assembly. Assembling this unit on a table top may be best.

