

Your New Chinchilla Checklist

- Solid-bottom cage with narrow bar spacing
 - A pair of chins should be in a space no less than 2'x2'x3'.
 - We recommend Critter Nation cages or large bird cages of comparable size with safe platforms.
- Chinchilla appropriate pellets
 - Avoid pellets with large quantities of seeds or colored pieces. Chinchillas will seek these out and waste the healthy pieces similar to a child picking marshmallows out of breakfast cereal.
 - Be sure pellets have ascorbic acid (vitamin C).
- Timothy hay
 - Loose hay is essential for proper digestion and wearing down teeth.
 - Meadow and orchard hay are also great alternatives to those who are allergic to timothy.
- Compressed hay bricks and/or apple tree sticks to wear down teeth.
- Cage bedding
 - Acceptable contact bedding materials include fluffy recycled paper, but kiln-dried aspen is also acceptable.
 - **DO NOT USE CEDAR BEDDING.** The chemical in cedar that smells pleasant to humans burns their respiratory tracts and feet.
- Heavy food dish
 - We recommend ceramic crocks that are too heavy to tip or stainless steel that can be secured to the side of the cage. Plastic can be chewed to pieces and harbor bacteria while ceramic and metal can be easily sanitized.
- Chinchilla bath dust and container for bathing
 - Chinchillas **MUST** bathe in dust once-twice per week depending on humidity.
- Safe, covered area such as an igloo or large diameter PCV pipe to use as a den and safe sleeping/hiding area.
- Marble or granite cooling tiles, lava ledges, 14" or larger wheel, cardboard boxes, & other safe toys.
- Attachable water bottle with drinking tube
 - We recommend using bottles designed to be secured to the outside of cages or glass bottles to discourage chewing on the plastic and thus flooding their cage.
- Appropriate treats such as
 - Dried rose hips
 - Hibiscus
 - Dandelion leaves
 - Nuts, seeds, and dried fruit such as raisins and cranberries should be given very sparingly or not at all
- Carrier to bring your new pet home and for trips to the vet.

