



WHITE HOUSE HOLIDAY HOW-TOS:  
*Build Your Own Terrarium*

The trees in the Green Room are decorated with a variety of handmade miniature terrariums that remind us of the beauty of the outdoors. You can make these eco-ornaments yourself with supplies you can find at any craft or gardening store.

**Materials**

- Clear Glass Jar
- Stones
- Activated Charcoal
- Soil (potting soil or cacti/succulent soil)
- Plants (of the same type)
- Decorative items



A terrarium from the Green Room of the White House, December, 2012.

**Assembly**

1. Wash and dry container.
2. Add 1-4 inches of pebbles or stone depending on size of container.
3. Add a thin layer of charcoal.
4. Add enough soil to match size of plant. For example, 2 inches of soil for a 2-inch plant.
5. Create a hole in the soil and place root ball into the hole. Cover with soil and lightly press down.
6. Now have fun! Add moss, crystals, shells, colored rock, colored sand, figurines.

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### **Tips & Ideas**

- Look around the house for any clear glass jar with an opening big enough for planting. Some examples are water pitchers, cookie jars, or apothecary jars.
- Make sure the plants you will be using have the same needs. Succulents with succulents, ferns with ferns for example.
- Plant the larger plants first.
- Do not over crowd plants
- Any pruning should be done before you plant.

### **Care**

- Do not place near a heat source or in direct sunlight.
- Indirect light is best.
- Keep soil moist. Do not over water as that can lead to mold and rotting. If it is a closed terrarium you should rarely need to water.

