

To make an Asteroid '79 lava rock terrarium at home, you typically use the rocks either as a functional **drainage layer** or as a **dramatic hardscape** element. Because lava rock is highly porous, it helps regulate moisture and allows plant roots to easily cling to its surface. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

Essential Supplies

- **Glass Container:** A jar or tank with an airtight lid for a self-sustaining environment.
- **Lava Rocks:** Black or red volcanic rocks (available at Home Depot or pet stores).
- **Activated Charcoal:** To keep the ecosystem fresh and prevent mold.
- **Substrate:** A nutrient-rich terrarium soil mix or "aqua soil".
- **Barrier:** Sphagnum moss or mesh to keep soil from washing into the drainage layer.
- **Plants:** Humidity-loving varieties like ferns, Peperomia, or mosses.
- **Tools:** Long tweezers, a spray bottle with deionized water, and superglue gel (if building structures). [6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15]

Step-by-Step Construction

1. **Prep the Rocks: Wash your lava rocks** thoroughly before use to remove dust and potential contaminants.
2. **Create the Drainage Layer:** Place about 1 inch of lava rock at the bottom of the jar. This layer stores excess water to prevent root rot.
3. **Add Filters:** Sprinkle a layer of **activated charcoal** over the rocks, followed by a barrier layer of damp **sphagnum moss**.
4. **Layer the Substrate:** Add a few inches of terrarium soil. You can slope it toward the back to create depth for your landscape.
5. **Design the Hardscape:**
 - **Vertical Tower:** Stack lava rocks vertically using superglue gel and tissue paper between joints to bond them securely.
 - **Cave Style:** Place two rocks vertically with one on top to form a natural arch.
6. **Planting:**
 - Insert rootless plant cuttings or small potted plants into the soil.

- For an "epiphytic" look, apply a dab of superglue to the stem of a plant (like *Anubias* or moss) and press it directly onto the porous lava rock.

7. Final Touches & Sealing:

- Add **springtails** (tiny insects) to act as a natural cleanup crew for mold.
- Mist the interior lightly with water—do not flood it.
- Seal the lid and place the terrarium in **bright, indirect light**. [1, 2, 7, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19]

These guides demonstrate how to build a lava rock terrarium at home using a drainage layer and substrate:

[Please help How would I start a basic Terrarium / Garden - Facebook - Facebook](#)

[Tiny lava rock terrarium tutorial #terrarium #plants #aquarium ... - YouTube](#)

[How to Build the Perfect Self-Sustaining Terrarium Step 1 ... - Instagram](#)

[How to Make A Bottle Garden-DIY Closed Terrarium - SuperMoss - SuperMoss](#)

[How to make a terrarium ecosystem \(A complete guide\) : r ... - Reddit](#)

[Terrarium Build with Wood and Lava Rock - Facebook](#)

[x] <https://usrock.com>

[1] <https://www.youtube.com>

[2] <https://www.youtube.com>

[3] <https://www.facebook.com>

[4] <https://www.firepit.co.uk>

[5] <https://ebyland.com>

[6] <https://www.facebook.com>

[7] <https://www.facebook.com>

[8] <https://www.happyhouseplants.co.uk>

[9] <https://www.youtube.com>

[10] <https://www.instagram.com>

[11] <https://www.happyhouseplants.co.uk>

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[17] <https://www.instagram.com>

[18] <https://www.reddit.com>

[19] <https://www.supermoss.com>