



Melissa Kaplan's Herp Care Collection

Last updated December 18, 2009

Standard Tank Sizes

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"So, what tank size do I need for my [fill in species name]?" is a question I'm often asked. It is a question often asked of pet store employees, too. Unfortunately, pet store employees too often give the wrong answer, something like, "Oh, you can house your iguana in that 10 gallon tank for its entire life!" (Why pet stores haven't figured out that they can make more money selling the equipment and supplies reptiles need, rather than some pet product manufacturer marketing person's idea of what is cute is beyond me...then again, they still sell iguana ponchos and skin moisturizers, don't they...)

As discussed in [Reptile Housing: Size, Dimension and Lifestyle](#), there is a rule of thumb to determining what size enclosure your reptile will need. The thing that most herp keepers don't keep in mind is that size will vary throughout the early years of its life as the reptile grows. So, the enclosure size suitable for a one year old iguana, boa constrictor or savanna monitor may not be the size suitable for that same reptile two, three or five years later. Since reptile species attain their full adult size at different ages, you need to be aware of the expected growth rate of your species. Again, pet stores and people who have listened to pet stores as to how to care for and feed their reptiles are not a good source of information as pet stores understate adult size and their care recommendations lead to stunted, undersized animals.

After you do the calculation to figure out what size tank you will need, you can compare it to the standard enclosures typically sold for reptiles.

Stock Aquariums

US gallons	Litres	Inches LxDxH	Centimeters LxDxH
2.5 (mini-tank)	9.5	13 x 6 x 8	33.0 x 15.2 x 20.3
5.5	20.8	17 x 9 x 11	43.2 x 22.9 x 27.9
10 (leader)	37.9	20 x 11 x 13	50.8 x 27.9 x 33.0
10 (long)	37.9	24 x 9 x 13	61.0 x 22.9 x 33.0
15	56.8	24 x 13 x 13	61.0 x 33.0 x 33.0
15 (high)	56.8	20 x 11 x 19	50.8 x 27.9 x 48.3
15 (show)	56.8	24 x 9 x 17	61.0 x 22.9 x 43.2
20 (high)	75.7	24 x 13 x 17	61.0 x 33.0 x 43.2
20 (long)	75.7	30 x 13 x 13	76.2 x 33.0 x 33.0
20 (long)	94.6	24 x 13 x 21	61.0 x 33.0 x 53.3
33 (long)	124.9	48 x 13 x 14	121.9 x 33.0 x 35.6
37	140.0	30 x 13 x 23	76.2 x 33.0 x 58.4
38	143.8	36 x 13 x 20	91.4 x 33.0 x 50.8
40 (breeder)	151.4	36 x 18 x 17	91.4 x 45.7 x 43.2
40 (long)	151.4	48 x 13 x 17	121.9 x 33.0 x 43.2
45	170.3	36 x 13 x 24	91.4 x 33.0 x 61.0
45 (long)	170.3	48 x 13 x 19	121.9 x 33.0 x 48.3

50	189.3	37 x 19 x 20	94.0 x 48.3 x 50.8
55	208.2	48 x 13 x 21	121.9 x 33.0 x 53.3
65	246.1	37 x 19 x 25	94.0 x 48.3 x 63.5
75	283.9	48 x 19 x 22	121.9 x 48.3 x 55.9
80	302.8	73 x 14 x 21	185.4 x 35.6 x 53.3
90	340.7	49 x 19 x 26	124.5 x 48.3 x 66.0
100	378.5	73 x 19 x 20	185.4 x 48.3 x 50.8
120	454.2	49 x 25 x 26	124.5 x 63.5 x 66.0
125	473.2	73 x 19 x 24	185.4 x 48.3 x 61.0
150	567.8	73 x 19 x 29	185.4 x 48.3 x 73.7
180	681.4	73 x 25 x 26	185.4 x 63.5 x 66.0

Rubbermaid Stock Tanks

Other stock tanks made by other companies are available in the same or similar capacity as these Rubbermaid tanks. Rubbermaid model numbers 4242, 4245 and 4247 have a drain plug.

Model # (US gallons)	Litres	Inches	Centimeters
4243 (50 gal)	189.3	52 x 31 x 12	132.1 x 78.7 x 30.5
4244 (70 gal)	265.0	40.5 x 32 x 24	102.9 x 81.3 x 61.0
4242 (100 gal)	378.5	52 x 31 x 25	132.1 x 78.7 x 63.5
4245 (150 gal)	567.8	58 x 39 x 25	147.3 x 99.1 x 63.5
4247 (300 gal)	1135.6	63.3 x 69 x 25	160.8 x 175.3 x 63.5

Other Commercial Enclosures

Resource	Product Name (Manufacturer)	Dimensions LxDxH in.	US gal	Imp gal
Big Apple	Reptarium (by Apogee)	15.5 x 15.5 x 22	26	19
		16.5 x 16.5 x 30	35	29.4
		28 x 16.5 x 30	60	49.9
		16.5 x 30 x 48	103	85.6
		30 x 30 x 48	187	155.7
		30 x 30 x 72	281	233.6
	Chameleon Sr.	36 x 24 x 48	179	149.5
	Chameleon Jr.	24 x 19 x 30	59	49.3
	Iguana Home ²	36 x 24 x 48	179.5	149.5
	Iguanarium (by Zoo Med) ²	24 x 18 x 24	45	37.4
		30 x 18 x 30	70	58.4
		36 x 18 x 48	135	112
	Vision Reptile	24 x 22 x 14	32	26.7

	Enclosures			
	Model 211			
	Model 221	28 x 24 x 12	34	29
	Model 215	28 x 14 x 20	35	17
	Model 222	28 x 24 x 24	70	58
	Model 322	36 x 23 x 21	75	62
	Model 332	36 x 28 x 18	78	65
	Model 422	48 x 28 x 18	105	87
	Model 432	54 x 36 x 18	151	126
	Model 433	48 x 28 x 28	241	135
	Model 622	72 x 28 x 18	157	131
	Model 632	72 x 36 x 18	202	168
	Model 734	80 x 28 x 44	426	355
Big Apple Herpsupplies.com	Lizard Lair	24 x 24 x 24	60	49.8
		36 x 24 x 24	90	74.7
		24 x 24 x 36	90	74.7
Herpsupplies.com	Create-a-Cage (by ESU)	24 x 24 x 23	57	47.7
		16 x 16 x 23	25	21.2
		16 x 16 x 19	21	17.5
	Iguana Kingdom ²	32 x 32 x 56	248	206.7
	Lizard Lounge (by Oceanic)	Available in 15, 32, 45, 50, and 70 gallon sizes		

The gallon size indicated on the Big Apple website is Imperial gallons (277.4193 cu. in./gal), not US gallons (231 cu. in./gal)

Don't ask me which of the above I think are good for an iguana. I do not think any of them are by virtue of how fast iguanas grow. As for the enclosures made primarily of mesh, bars, or screening materials, it is difficult to impossible to keep an iguana heated properly in an enclosure made out of such materials.

Calculating Capacity

To calculate the capacity of any enclosure, simply multiply the height x width x depth, in inches. This gives you the total cubic inches (cu. in.). Divide this by the following factor to get gallons:

231 cu. in. = US gallons

277.4193 cu. in. = Imperial gallons