

# Keep your hamster or gerbil comfortable & safe with all-natural bedding.



At American Wood Fibers, we have years of experience creating the ultimate all-natural bedding for small pets, including your hamster or gerbil. Our bedding is made exclusively from 100% all-natural wood shavings, so it contains no dioxins and is completely sludge-free — unlike other bedding products, some of which are manufactured from the chemical sludge that is left over after the paper manufacturing process.

#### **ABOUT YOUR HAMSTER/GERBIL HABITAT.**

These tips will help you provide a habitat that will make your hamster and gerbil downright delighted.

- Replace bedding at least weekly, more frequently if necessary. Add new bedding to a depth of two or three inches; spread it evenly around the habitat so the hamster or gerbil can move it and pile it up.
- Hamsters and gerbils “nest” to feel comfortable and safe. Make sure you supply bedding material that they can use to line their sleeping areas and to create soft, warm hideaways. Fluffier material (like wood chips and

shredded paper) is better; pellets and corn cobs are satisfactory base substrates but do not provide the opportunity for nesting.

- A wheel is a great way for hamsters and gerbils to get the exercise they need. Remember, they are nocturnal, which means they are active at night. Find a wheel that will operate quietly.
- Because their teeth never stop growing, hamsters and gerbils must gnaw on chew toys to prevent teeth from becoming overgrown.
- Hamsters and gerbils need fresh food on a daily basis.

#### **The right bedding for hamsters/gerbils — and all other animals.**

The complete line of bedding from American Wood Fibers is made from all-natural, kiln-dried, biodegradable wood shavings, and has twice the odor control of the leading paper bedding. We are committed to creating bedding that provides comfort and safety for small pets like hamsters and gerbils, as well as other animals. To learn more about our all-natural, sludge- and dioxin-free bedding, visit [awf.com](http://awf.com).

 **AMERICAN WOOD FIBERS**



See other side to learn what bedding material is best for your hamster or gerbil.

## ABOUT SMALL-PET HABITATS IN GENERAL.

Routine care and maintenance will keep your small pet's habitat clean, fresh, and safe — for your pet and for you.

- Habitats should be large enough to allow them to move around freely, and create “room” for various activities (e.g. eating, sleeping, going potty etc.).
- Habitats should be very well ventilated to prevent buildup of odor.
- Water supplies should be checked frequently, at least daily. Keep them filled with fresh clean water, and free of obstructions.
- Be certain the habitat is secure and that there is no way your pet can climb or chew its way out.
- Bedding should be replaced frequently — at least once a week — to absorb moisture and odors. Before adding fresh bedding, wash the habitat with a gentle all-purpose cleaner, rinse it with clean water, and dry it thoroughly.
- Choose bedding that is free from chemicals and toxins.
- All-natural wood shavings (pine, aspen) and sludge-free paper products are recommended.
- Sludge-based paper bedding, sludge-based paper pellets, reclaimed paper, and reclaimed cellulose are not recommended, as they have been shown to contain dioxins, which are known carcinogens.
- In an enclosed habitat cedar is not recommended, as the natural scent might cause respiratory problems for some small pets.

There are many types of pet bedding on the market. For your hamster's or gerbil's maximum comfort we recommend those beddings checked. ✓



### Small Animal Bedding Matrix

	✓ Kiln-Dried Softwood/ Pine	✓ Kiln-Dried Aspen Shavings	Gray Paper Pulp (Sludge Based)	Wood Shavings Mixed with Paper Pulp	Paper Pellets- Gray, Colored or Crumbled	Cellulose Paper Granules	Pelletized Pine	Colorized or Bleached Pulp	✓ Shredded Specialty Paper
Healthy	★★★★	★★★★	★	★	★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★
All-Natural	★★★★	★★★★	★	★	★	★	★★★★	★	★
Odor Absorption	★★★★	★★★★	★	★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★	★★★★
Liquid Absorption	★★	★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★
Dust-Free	★★★★	★★★★	★	★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★
Economical	★★★★	★★★★	★	★	★	★	★★	★	★★
Nesting	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★	★	★	★★★★	★★★★
Flushable/mulchable	★★★★	★★★★	★	★	★	★★	★★	★	★
Easy to Use	★★	★★	★★	★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★
Softness	★★	★★	★★	★★	★	★★★★	★	★★★★	★★★★
Fun/Fashion	★	★	★	★	★★	★	★	★★★★	★★★★
<b>Dioxin Free</b>	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Your hamster or gerbil deserves the best! For that reason we recommend the dioxin free bedding checked.



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