Hermit Crab Substrate Guide

The right substrate gives your hermit crabs protection and digging space for molting, tunnels, and caves.

Tank Size	Can House	Substrate Depth
20 Gallons	Up to 2 small/medium crabs	8–10 inches
30 Gallons	Up to 3 small/medium crabs	8–10 inches
40 Gallons	Up to 4 small/medium crabs	8–10+ inches
50 Gallons	Up to 5 small/medium crabs	8–10+ inches
55 Gallons	Up to 5–6 small/medium crabs	8–10+ inches
75 Gallons	Up to 7–8 small/medium crabs	8–10+ inches
100 Gallons	Up to 10 small/medium crabs	8–12 inches (or deeper if you prefer)

Tank Size Rule of Thumb

For Small / Medium Crabs:
Every 10 gallons can house 1 small or medium crab.

For Large / Jumbo Crabs:
Every 15 gallons is needed per large or jumbo crab.

Bigger is always better!

Substrate Ratio

5 : 1

5 parts children's play sand to 1 part coconut fiber (thoroughly mixed)

Larger Quantity Option

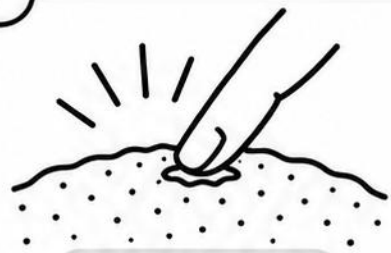
For bigger setups, you can use:

- One 150 lb. bag of children's play sand
- ½ a brick or ½ a bag of loose coconut fiber

(Mix both together while dry.)

Consistency (Poke Test)

1. Mix the sand and coconut fiber while both are completely dry.
2. Do a simple poke test with your finger.
3. The substrate should hold the opening without immediately collapsing.
4. If it doesn't hold shape, add ¼ cup of Prime water at a time, mix, and test again until you get a loose consistency that holds shape.



Poke Test