

Indoor Guinea Pig Essential Supplies Checklist (Everything You Need)

So, you're looking for the necessary supplies for your guinea pig. But what exactly are you supposed to include in your indoor guinea pig essential supplies checklist?

You need to acquire items that correspond to your guinea pig's needs, specifically: housing, food, water, grooming, and play or physical activity.

Naturally, securing the crucial supplies for guinea pigs is part of responsible pet care. But more importantly, it ensures that your cavy will not just survive but live a comfortable life under your roof. After all, guinea pigs are too affectionate and incredibly adorable to be neglected.

To help you out, we put together everything you need to know about the essential guinea pig supplies.

Ultimate Indoor Guinea Pig Essential Supplies Checklist

While it's true that guinea pigs are low maintenance, it doesn't mean that they should live in inadequate conditions. Like any other pet, providing the basic needs for your cavies is the bare minimum.

Nevertheless, most people who keep guinea pigs indoors are keen on giving more than the fundamental requirements for the cavies' survival.

With that, we can say that many guinea pig parents and owners are doing fantastic jobs with their pets. And you can be one, too, especially if you have the essential supplies for your indoor guinea pig.

Check out our guinea pig essential supplies checklist.

A. Housing

- Cage
- Bedding
- Hideout
- Portable Carrier

B. Food

- Hay Rack
- Food Bowl
- Pellets and Hay
- Treats and Other Foods

C. Water

- Water bottle feeder

D. Toys

E. Grooming Tools

- Comb or brush
- Scissors
- Nail trimmer
- Shampoo

F. Cleaning Supplies

A. Housing

Your guinea pig's shelter or housing structure pretty much determines whether your cavy has the optimum living condition or not.

For starters, it provides the safety and security your guinea pig needs. Here are the essential items you need to consider when planning or improving your cavy's enclosure.

Cage

You can easily find cages and hutch in pet stores designed for guinea pigs.

In some cases, owners who are not well-informed about the dimension, form, and structure of guinea pig cages go for less favorable options like an aquarium. Unfortunately, while aquariums may appear cheaper, they lack the necessary qualities that guarantee cage efficiency.

To avoid making mistakes in choosing your cavy's cage, consider the following standards:

1. **Dimension:** At least 30 inches X 36 inches for a single guinea pig. If you have multiple guinea pigs, make sure to get a bigger cage enough for the cavies to move around and find their personal space.
2. **Sufficient ventilation:** Look for a cage that allows free air circulation without being too drafty.
3. **Materials and Structure:** A standard cage often comes with horizontal multi-level wires that allow guinea pigs to climb and escape the enclosure.

You may want to avoid this kind of cage. Instead, look for a cage that can keep your cavy secure in their home without risking injuries from climbing the walls of the enclosure.

What We Recommend:

If you are looking for the best guinea pig cage, check out [MidWest Homes for Pets Store Guinea Habitat](#). It's highly recommended by veterinarians and cavy experts alike for its innovative design and optimum safety options.

Bedding

More often than not, we think of beddings as comfortable items used for resting. However, in the case of a guinea pig's house, it refers to an entirely different thing.

Beddings are essential materials used to absorb the moisture and other substances from your guinea pig's wastes.

By placing beddings on the cage, you protect your cavy from the potential infection that comes with their urine and feces scattered on the cage floor.

The three most common choices for beddings are fleece, paper-based bedding, and aspen bedding.

What We Recommend:

When choosing your guinea pig cage's beddings, look for the unscented, non-toxic, super absorbent, paw-friendly, and easy-to-clean option. Here are three beddings that fit the standards.

- Fleece: [GuineaDad Liner Guinea Pig Bedding](#)
- Paper-based: [Carefresh 99% Dust-Free Natural Paper Small Pet Bedding with Odor Control](#)
- Aspen bedding: [Small Pet Select Aspen Shavings Bedding](#)

Hideout

Even your guinea pig needs alone time every now and then. And what better way to give them their privacy than by providing a hideout where they can take short naps and sleep to recharge?

Guinea pigs are social animals, yet they need time to destress a little. Therefore, when choosing a hideout for your cavy's enclosure, find the one that fits the size of the cage, is comfortable enough for quality sleep, is space-saving, and is easy to install.

What We Recommend:

Hideouts come in different forms. Depending on the available space in the cage, you can go for the classic cave habitat, hammock bed, hut, or tunnel.

Now, consider the following hideouts:

- [RIOUSSI Guinea Pig Hideout Hideaway Corner](#)
- [JanYoo Guinea Pig Hideout Set Tunnel](#)
- [LeerKing Guinea Pig Bed Hideout](#)

Portable Carrier

If you love to travel or simply take your guinea pig around the neighborhood, it helps a lot if you have a portable carrier around.

Unlike larger pets such as dogs, guinea pigs can get a little stressed out when traveling, especially on long car trips.

Therefore, you will need to secure the right items starting with a portable carrier where your cavy can sit still during the entire ride.

Put some snacks inside and reliable food and water containers. This stuff eases out your guinea pig's travel anxiety.

What We Recommend:

Before buying a portable carrier, make sure you consider factors such as space, quality, and ease of use. If you have more than one guinea pig, you can place them in a single carrier as long as the size fits the criteria.

For example, two guinea pigs are suitable for a carrier with a width of about 12 inches, length of 19 inches, and height of 12 inches.

Likewise, if you're traveling by plane, inquire if there are specific requirements on the carriers allowed by the airlines. Here are some of the portable carriers you can choose from:

- [Living World Hagen Pet Carrier](#)
- [Suncast Portable Pet Carrier with Handle](#)
- [Favorite Cart Travel Portable Small Animal Pet Carrier](#)

B. Food

Food is always the primary concern when getting a pet. When it comes to guinea pigs, you need to follow a specific diet suitable for the species.

Moreover, you also have to provide the food accessories required to create an efficient eating experience for your cavy. So, here are the items you need to prepare.

Pellets and Hay

Guinea pigs do not require fancy meals to survive – although they would appreciate one or two from time to time. They only need hay and pellets for their steady diet and some occasional fruits and vegetables on the side.

This is particularly true when providing food for newborn or baby guinea pigs. At this stage, guinea pigs are not allowed to eat other foods as their digestion is still adjusting.

Likewise, hay and leafy greens allow them to nibble, which helps control their teeth' growth.

What We Recommend:

The best hay for guinea pigs is the Timothy hay. You can try [Kaytee All Natural Timothy Hay](#) or [Oxbow Animal Health Western Timothy Hay](#).

On the other hand, you can also opt for pellets like the [Kaytee Timothy Complete Guinea Pig Pet Food](#). In addition, you can mix up hay and pellets and add other organic foods allowed for your cavy.

Treats and Other Foods

Occasional treats are suitable for your cavy. They enable them to explore new tastes and acquire vitamins and minerals which are not abundantly found in pellets and hay.

However, caution must be taken when choosing a treat for your guinea pig, especially if you're giving them foods from your fridge.

Unfortunately, you can't share what you eat with your cavy or at least not in the same amount you consume them. Generally, plenty of fruits and vegetables are tolerable and even enjoyable for your cavy.

See our list of fruits and veggies your guinea pig can safely eat.

Fruits

- Apples
- Bananas
- Blueberries
- Cranberries
- Cucumber
- Cherries
- Kiwi
- Mango
- Melon
- Oranges
- Papayas
- Peaches

- Strawberries

Veggies

- Artichokes
- Bell pepper
- Broccoli
- Cabbage
- Carrots
- Dark green veggies
- Peas
- Romaine lettuce
- Tomatoes (only the fruit)

What We Recommend:

Aside from the mentioned organic fruits and veggies, you can also try packed treats fortified with vitamin c and other nutrients like the [Kaytee Timothy Biscuits Baked Carrot Treat](#).

If you're in doubt about which treat to give your cavy, don't hesitate to check with your veterinarian.

Hay Rack

Hay has to be accessible to your guinea pigs, considering it constitutes the nutrients required for their health and wellness. But placing the hay on the floor of the cage may not be a wise move.

For one, the hay can scatter all over the place, and your cavy may accidentally pee or poop on them. When that happens, your guinea pig can become infected.

So, to avoid this unpleasant setup, adding a hay rack can keep all the hays neat and organized in one place.

However, some pet owners are not so keen on placing a hay rack on their guinea pig's enclosure. There were some cases where hay racks became a hazard for your cavy.

For example, some guinea pigs got stuck in the hay rack sustaining minor injuries.

Nonetheless, if you think about it, these problems boil down to the wrong hay rack choice.

What We Recommend:

First, find a hay rack that does not entirely restrict access to hay. Guinea pigs that don't get sufficient hay may suffer from health problems caused by lacking nutrients.

Then, consider the safety of the design and materials of the hay rack. Avoid hay racks that can get your guinea pig stuck.

You can consider the following hay racks:

[Geegoods Hay Feeder Bag](#)

[andwe Hay Feeder](#)

[Rural365 Hay Feeder Rack](#)

Food Bowl

In the spirit of not placing your guinea pig's food on the floor of the cage, a food bowl is always a fine choice.

If you already have a hay rack, that's even more beneficial. Nevertheless, a food bowl is generally where you put your cavy's pellets and treats.

When choosing the best food bowl for your guinea pig, consider durability and easy cleaning on top of your criteria.

What We Recommend:

In terms of durable materials, ceramic food bowls are hands down better than plastic ones, keeping your guinea pig safe from health problems.

With that, here are some ceramic food bowls you can check for your guinea pigs' food supplies.

[Living World Ergonomic Small Animal Food Dish](#)

[Kaytee Vege-T-Bowl](#)

[Tfwadm Food Bowl](#)

C. Water

A guinea pig cage without any water is an utterly inadequate one. Indeed, water is vital for your cavy survival, just as it is vital to yours. Therefore, it has to be accessible and available all the time.

On average, guinea pigs drink as much as [3.3 ounces/ 2.2 pounds](#) of water every day. However, this amount can either go higher or lower depending on the weather and humidity to regulate your cavy's temperature.

Dehydration is a condition you don't want your guinea pig to experience. Hence, providing a sufficient water supply is a must.

Water Bottle Feeder

When choosing a water bottle feeder for your guinea pig, make sure that it is consistently safe from contamination on top of being accessible.

The nozzle has to be chew-proof, knowing full well the tendencies of guinea pigs to gnaw nonstop. In the same way, it has to be sturdy and easy to install.

What We Recommend:

[Choco Nose H128 No Drip Guinea Pigs Water Bottle](#)

[Lixit Chew Proof Flat Sided Water Bottles](#)

D. Toys

Guinea pigs get bored, especially if they are on their own. That's why giving them toys to chew on or generally play with can keep them entertained. On top of that, it stimulates both their mental and physical capacities.

What We Recommend:

If you're on a budget, you can consider several household items to give as toys to your cavy. But you also have to be selective and cautious about which toys to provide, making sure that it is not hazardous to your little furry.

You can convert the following items to toys:

1. A sock stuffed with beddings or hay
2. Cardboard box
3. Non-toxic crumpled paper

On the other hand, if you just can't help but spoil your guinea pig, you can check some of the available toys and fun items available online or in any pet store.

Chew Toys

- [Dbeans Flourithing 3 Types of Combined Chew Toys](#)
- [Kaytee Chew & Treat Toy Assortment for Guinea Pigs](#)
- [andwe Small Animals Play Balls Rolling Chew Toys & Gnawing Treats](#)
- [Kaytee Comfort Wheel](#)
- [Zacro Exercise Wheel](#)

E. Grooming Tools

Guinea pigs can grow to be super furry. And if you skip the grooming rituals, you might compromise your cavy's health. However, grooming too often is also not recommended.

If you're in doubt about how often you should groom your cavy, you can always seek advice from your vet, as the frequency may vary based on the guinea pig breed.

What We Recommend:

Guinea pig grooming includes bathing, nail trimming, fur brushing, ear cleaning, and grease gland cleaning. With all these grooming activities, you will need these items:

- Comb or brush
- Scissors
- Nail trimmer
- Shampoo

To save you the trouble of buying one item at a time, you can opt for grooming kits like the following:

[Ware Manufacturing Small Animal Grooming Kit](#)

[Crafterlife's 6-Piece Grooming Kit](#)

For shampoo, you can try the [Kaytee Squeaky Clean Critter Shampoo](#) or the [Citrus Magic Pet Foaming Pet Cleanser](#).

F. Cleaning Supplies

Aside from the indoor guinea pig essential supplies listed above, keeping the following items around for efficient maintenance and care would be beneficial.

Cleaning supplies

Maintaining a suitable living condition for your cavy is non-negotiable. With that, you will need cleaning supplies to collect wastes, replace beddings, and disinfect the enclosure.

Make sure you have a broom brush, dustpan, pet mat, gloves for your hands, cage liners, deodorizer, and cage cleaner.

In a Nutshell

Now that we've covered all the necessary items and supplies your guinea pig needs, the next step is to prepare and plan your purchase. Nonetheless, taking another quick look at your guide couldn't hurt.

To summarize, here are all the supplies you have to secure.

Indoor Guinea Pig Essential Supplies Checklist:

1. Cage
2. Bedding
3. Hideout
4. Portable Carrier
5. Hay Rack
6. Food Bowl
7. Pellets
8. Hay
9. Treats and Other Foods
10. Water
11. Water bottle feeder
12. Chew toys
13. Exercise wheel
14. Comb or brush
15. Scissors
16. Nail trimmer
17. Shampoo
18. Cleaning supplies

When it comes to guinea pigs and pets in general, safety, comfort, and growth go on top of the priorities.

So, it only makes sense to avoid settling for low-quality items. Instead, go for the best veterinarian-approved supplies.