



LET'S TALK ABOUT  
**SPA**  
**TREATMENT**

A TENREC CARE  
GUIDE

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By Happy Quills

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# SPA TREATMENT

## Tenrec's Cleaning Habits

Tenrecs do not need water baths with soap, they should instead be given sand baths in their enclosure and allowed to self-bathe. Tenrecs use the sand to exfoliate their skin to keep it healthy. They bathe by grabbing sand with their front paws, wetting it with their saliva, and then scrubbing it onto their face, head, back, etc. You want to use a container to put the sand in so they can climb into it to sand bathe and sand won't go everywhere in the enclosure. The container should be large enough for them to easily move around in. You cannot use any old sand, they need clean sand safe for animals, reptile sand (never calcium/calc sand, it can be fatal if they ingest any of it because it clumps when wet and will cause an impaction inside of them), or hamster/chinchilla sand (no chinchilla dust, it is too fine & could harm their lungs, eyes, & ears).

Tenrec nails are long and need to be a good length so that they are able to grip and climb. They do not usually need their nails trimmed unless they are not able to wear their nails down on wood while climbing, as this is how they would wear their nails down in the wild. You should only trim their nails a little if you notice their nails starting to flop over when they walk or they are getting close to curling into their feet. Under no circumstances should their nails be cut short as they will be unable to climb properly and may injure themselves from falling. If you need to trim their nails, use regular human nail clippers, baby nail clippers, or cuticle clippers.

