10-Gallon Nano Stocking & Plant Checklist



Confidently layer, hardscape, and stock your vibrant small-space ecosystem.

I know firsthand how tricky small aquariums can be. This guide helps you balance nutrients, arrange hiding spots, and select the perfect peaceful inhabitants.

Key Tank Measurements

1 to 1.5 inches
Capped active soil base depth

1 inch
Inert sand cap depth

1.5 inches
Fine gravel cap depth

6 to 8 hours
Daily full-spectrum LED timer

1/2 inch
Overhang for blackout window film

3 to 4 inches
Length to replant trimmed tops

2 inches
Depth to push stems down

20 percent
Weekly water change volume

Bubble-Free Background
Spray the back glass heavily with soapy water before applying the static-cling blackout window film so you can easily squeegee out trapped air bubbles.

Choosing Your Inert Cap

Find your row: **Flow and aesthetics**

Flow and aesthetics	Your pick	Why
Delicate root systems	Pool filter sand	0.5 to 1.0 mm grain size
Strong water flow	Fine gravel	2.0 to 3.0 mm grain size
Foreground aesthetics	Cosmetic sand	0.2 to 0.5 mm grain size

Nano Stocking & Plant List

- [ ] 1 bag active soil
- [ ] 1 centerpiece spider wood (sight-break branches)
- [ ] 2 pots of background stem plants
- [ ] 8-10 schooling nano fish (Ember Tetras)
- [ ] 3 hardworking Amano shrimp

Prep & Acclimation Checks

- ○ Wipe rear panel twice with a lint-free cloth to remove dust.
- ○ Rinse cap material in a bucket until runoff runs completely clear.
- ○ Secure bone-dry spider wood so it won't violently float.
- ○ Test to ensure zero ammonia and nitrite before adding livestock.
- ○ Float transport bag twenty minutes, then drip water over one hour.

Tank Setup Notes

Enjoy watching your tiny, peaceful aquatic ecosystem thrive right in your own home!