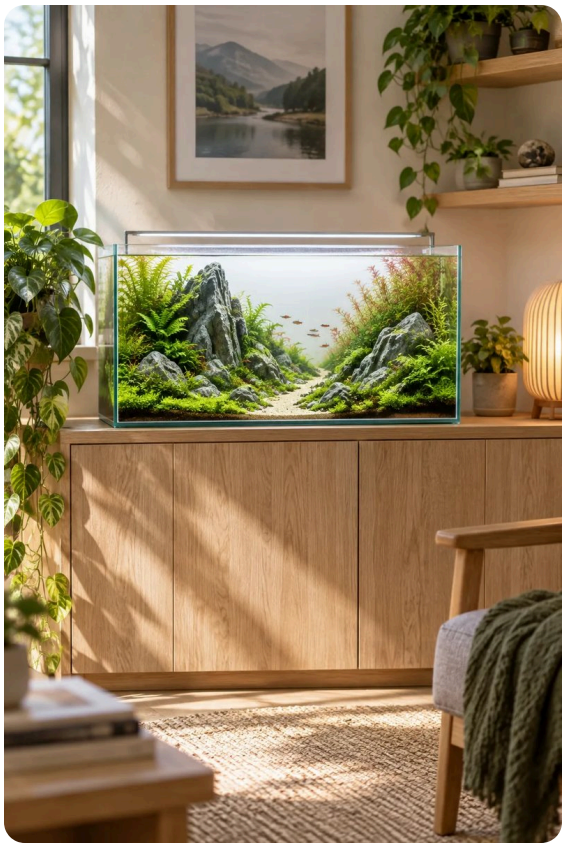
Aquascape Depth & Planting Guide

Map your exact substrate slope, stone positions, and plant rows for a stunning valley.

Guessing soil height often leaves a flat, muddy mess. Use these precise foundational measurements to build a sprawling natural landscape that maintains perfect structural proportions.



Valley Foundations

1/3
Bury depth & peak placement mark

2 inches
Minimum soil cap over mesh bags

6 hours
Daily light for the first month

3-4 mm
Normal aquasoil for deep banks

1-2 mm
Powder aquasoil for the top inch

Frosted Film Backdrop

Ditch black backgrounds. Apply frosted window film to the back pane to diffuse light, hide messy cables, and create a softly glowing, misty horizon.

Grading the Slope

1. **Base Support** Stack mesh bags of crushed lava rock beneath the highest peaks to prevent settling.
2. **Cap with Soil** Cover the mesh bags entirely with normal grain aquasoil to build the deep banks.
3. **Top Layer** Add fine powder grain soil over the top for delicate carpeting plants to root.

Slope 2 to 10 cm

Find your row: **Tank Width**

Tank Width	Your pick	Why
30 cm	2cm front, 8cm back	Peak mark 10cm from left
45 cm	2cm front, 9cm back	Peak mark 15cm from left
60 cm	2cm front, 10cm back	Peak mark 20cm from left
90 cm	2cm front, 12cm back	Peak mark 30cm from left

Front-to-Back Planting

- [ ] Delicate carpeting plants in the top powder soil
- [ ] Medium ferns wedged into midground stone crevices
- [ ] Slow-growing Anubias attached directly to the hardscape
- [ ] Weeping moss glued to shaded rock crevices
- [ ] Fine stem plants massed at back (tiny leaves fake miles)

Hardscape Checks

- [ ] Press firmly on every dry stone to check for wobbles.
- [ ] Align supporting stone textures with the main peak's angle.
- [ ] Check that the cosmetic sand path curves and narrows.

Layout Notes

Enjoy building your lush underwater valley—take your time and trust the process!