



## **User Manual**

## **AntsCanada Outworld™**

**Contents**

1 Basin



1 Food Chute Cap



1 Floor Plate



2 AC Plugs™



1 Lid Trim



AC Large Vinyl Tubing™ (3 feet)



1 Lid



## **Introduction**

An ant colony's living space consists of two important parts: a nest and an outworld. This AntsCanada Outworld™ (AC Outworld™) offers your ants an open area to forage for food, establish garbage sites, and all other natural ant activities that happen outside of the nest.

## **Features**

The new and improved AC Outworld™ has several features that make it the best outworld available.

1. Cornerless
  - a. Some ant species can climb through any barrier applied if they have a corner to navigate. The cornerless design of the new AC Outworld™ helps you as the ant keeper to avoid this problem.
2. Seamless
  - a. There are no seams or glue used in the construction of the new AC Outworld™.

### Features (continued)

3. Stackable

- a. The new AC Outworld™ is designed to be stackable. If you have two outworlds, you can remove the floor plate from one of them and it will fit perfectly in the top of the other one. This is a nice feature for arboreal and climbing ants and allows for vertical expansion rather than horizontal expansion of your setups. NOTE: We recommend not stacking higher than 2 or 3 in order to avoid toppling.



4. Small feeder opening

- a. No need to remove the entire lid when feeding your colony.



## Features (continued)

5. Built-in poly tubing connection points
  - a. The built-in poly tubing connection points make it very easy to connect your new outworld to the rest of your ant setup. The design of the connection point allows for a nice, tight fit with AntsCanada large poly tubing.
  - b. **IMPORTANT:** Your outworld comes with two built-in poly tubing connections. Remember to block any unused connection points with cotton or an AntsCanada Plug™.



6. Microholes in the lid with additional microholes in back for more air movement.
  - a. An important aspect of any outworld is air circulation. Without good air circulation, your ants may decide to make the outworld their nesting space.



## Features (continued)

7. Air hose ports
  - a. To allow for even more air movement, your new outworld has two air hose connection points. Connect a standard aquarium air pump to either or both ports to increase air circulation in your outworld.



8. 10% larger than previous version
  - a. The new AntsCanada Outworld™ is 10% larger than its predecessor. Your ants will enjoy the extra space.
9. Stronger
  - a. Made from clear ABS plastic. Stands up to dings and bumps much better.

## Assembly

Your new AntsCanada Outworld™ comes fully assembled. It is quite simple to disassemble and re-assemble should the need ever arise.

1. The entire lid, including the Lid Trim, can be removed. Gently apply upward pressure to one side of the Lid Trim and it will pop off.
2. The Lid is removed from the lid trim by lifting up on one of the two handles on either side.
3. The Floor Plate is designed to snap into place beneath four small tabs at the bottom of the Basin. Place the Floor Plate into the Basin and apply downward pressure until it snaps into place. It can be removed by applying upward pressure on it from the bottom.

Here's a link to an AntsCanada YouTube video showing how a Hybrid Nest 2.0 and Outworld can be setup: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRV2eXmI8wU> (Beginning at the 8:00 minute mark you will find the Hybrid Nest 2.0 and Outworld setup.)

## Air Circulation & Air Hose Ports



Air circulation in an outworld is critical. Since the ants will leave their garbage in the antworld, toxic ammonia will be generated. Proper air circulation removes this ammonia. Air circulation is also important in keeping condensation out of your outworld which will minimize the growth of mold. Finally, proper air circulation will help prevent your ants from wanting to use the outworld as a nesting space since ants dislike drafty areas.

The air hose ports allow you to increase the air circulation in your outworld. These ports use standard 3/16 inch (4.7625mm) diameter tubing. Feel free to add a fish air pump to create air movement within the AC Outworld™ to discourage mold growth and communicate to the ants that the outworld space is not their nesting area. You can find air hosing and an air pump wherever you buy aquarium supplies.



## Preventing Escapes

It is common practice to add a barrier to prevent the ants from crawling up the sides of an outworld and escaping as you try to add food, or tidy up the outworld. The Lid Trim is the



ideal location to apply this barrier. Some of the more common barriers include baby powder (sometimes mixed with rubbing alcohol), flouon, and petroleum jelly. Apply one of these barriers to the underside of the Lid Trim (the side that faces into the outworld) and reapply when you notice the ants are able to begin crossing it in

certain spots. This is one of the main purposes for the Lid Trim. It allows for a barrier to be applied while at the same time allowing the lid to be removed leaving the barrier in place.

Another consideration with regards to ant escapes, especially small species, is sealing the floor plate. When snapped into place, the bottom plate does not create a perfectly unescapable seal. If you don't plan on using an AntsCanada Biome Kit to decorate your new outworld, you should consider applying a bead of 100% silicone to seal the floor plate.



## **2-in-1 Living Space**

If you so choose, you can also create a nesting area inside your AC Outworld™ to make it a 2-in-1 living area for your ants (i.e. nest + foraging space) by simply adding soil into the AC Outworld™. The ants will nest in the soil and come to the surface to forage for food. You can still use an air pump to create air flow above the soil to further communicate to the ants that they can expect to find food above the soil. Don't forget to water the soil periodically so the ants don't dry out!

**IMPORTANT: When using the AC Outworld™ as a 2-in-1 living space, we recommend using 100% Silicone to seal the Floor Plate into place. Otherwise you will most likely experience some water leakage when you water the soil.**



## Decorating Your New Outworld

You may decorate your outworld with anything you choose, but of course we would suggest one of our three Biome Kits – Rain Forest, Desert & Oasis, or Field & Forest. Each kit comes with hardening soil, various pebbles and rocks, sticks, mosses, and special artificial plant life. Below are a few examples of what you can do.

AntsCanada Rain Forest Biome Kit™



AntsCanada Desert & Oasis Biome Kit™



AntsCanada Field & Forest Biome Kit™



Here's a link to an AntsCanada YouTube video showing how a Hybrid Nest 2.0 and Outworld can be setup: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRV2eXmI8wU> (Beginning at the 8:00 minute mark you will find the Hybrid Nest 2.0 and Outworld setup.)