



# Natural Playgrounds Store

Natural Playgrounds Company

85 Warren Street, Concord, NH 03301

Toll Free 888-290-8405

Intl 603-228-0476

Fax 603-228-6018

ethan@naturalplaygrounds.com



## Ant Farms or Worm Farms

### AntF

**Shipping Weight: 45 lbs**

**Shipping Dimensions: 30"L X 30"W X 7"H**

**Brand: Natural Playgrounds Company**

**Toxicity: child friendly wood preservative**

**Age Appropriateness: all ages**

This Ant Farm (also called a formicarium) is a must have on a natural or any other playground.

Have you ever watched ants going into and out of their nest, and wondered what was going on underground? It's pretty hard to find out from the surface. If you dig up the nest, the ants get really upset, and of course their tunnels are destroyed at the same time, so the simplest way to watch what ants do inside their nest is to trick them into thinking they're underground when they actually are not!

The 24" wide x ~16" tall, double-sided viewing window offers a full scale view of ant colonies so kids can see how ants behave.

The formicarium was invented around 1900 by Charles Janet, a French entomologist and polymath, who had the idea of reducing the three dimensions of an ant nest to the almost two dimensions by squeezing it between two panes of glass.

He never patented his invention, so the first commercial ant farm was sold around 1929 by Frank Eugene Austin (1873–1964), an inventor and professor at the Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire!

This simple element is full of fabulous learning opportunities, and helps kids develop a better understanding of the natural world.

We can make them so they rest on the ground (see the front one in the photo), or be raised up off the ground (see the middle one in the photo). There is a removable top that keeps rain, snow, dirt, and other unwanted things out of the ant colony, but allows you to feed the ants, provide them with water when they need it, and change out the sand.

Specify whether you want the ground-mounted (short) or raised (tall) one in the pull down menu.

Stands 30" tall x 30" wide. Legs go into the ground another 30"