

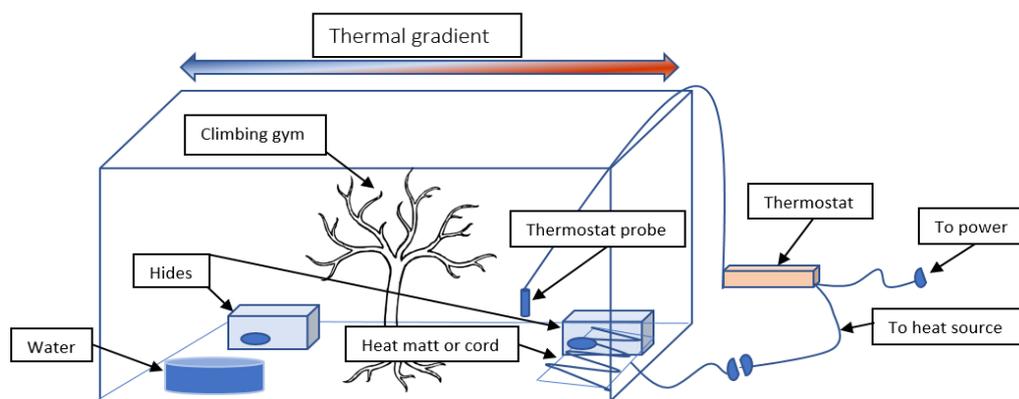
Basic Python Setup & Care (Australian Pythons)

Snakes are very easy to keep and require only minimal equipment setup & care. This is a basic rundown for hatchlings but can be scaled up for bigger snakes.

Basic requirements are:

- **Heat** – a hot area between 32-35 degrees (heat pad or heat cord)
- **Security** – several hides should be provided at both hot & cold ends of the enclosure.
- **Water** – a suitable water bowl that won't be knocked over when climbed on.

Below is a typical basic setup for Australian pythons. As these pythons are mostly nocturnal a UV light is not necessary.



Enclosure – this can be anything from a plastic storage click clack container to a glass or wooden enclosure. Hatchling snakes need a small click/clack container to start with, larger enclosures will cause stress which leads to the snake not feeding.

Thermal Gradient – this is necessary so your python can choose their optimal temperature in the enclosure. As reptiles can't regulate their body temperature it's important you provide a temperature range they will be comfortable in at all times of the day & night.

Hides – these should be small enough so the snake can touch the sides when curled up, they will always choose the smallest hide available. Anything such as light bulb boxes, PVC plumbing lids or plastic pot saucers can be used. Provide at least two, one at each end.

Heat source – for a small hatchling python in a small enclosure, heat cord or a heat pad are better than lighting. These heat up a small area rather than the whole enclosure, keeping the thermal gradient.

Thermostat – this regulates the heat source by turning it on & off. Connect one plug to the power point, the other plug to the heat source. Position the temperature probe inside the enclosure, next to the heat source, not directly on it. This helps to keep the thermal gradient intact.

Climbing gym – add some decorations for your python to climb on. Depending on the species some like sitting off the ground (carpet pythons), others are happy to sit on their hides or on the substrate (womas/antaresia).

Substrate – you can use newspaper, papertowel, sand, paper kitty litter, bark, sawdust etc. Some are cheaper than others, depends on how you want your enclosure to look.