

freshwater aquarium care sheet



aquarium size

Aquariums range from 5 gallon to 55 gallons and larger. A larger aquarium allows a greater number of fish and a more diverse variety. The larger volume of water keeps the water chemistry more stable and less likely to have sudden change.



location

Aquarium should be placed away from windows, heat vents, air conditioners and outside doors. Avoid extreme temperature.



tank set-up

1 Rinse tank. **2** Place on stand. **3** Check to make sure tank is level. **4** Leave space between aquarium and wall for tank maintenance. **5** Fill tank 1/4 to 1/3 full. **6** Dry off outside of tank and check for leaks. **7** Install filter: if using undergravel filter rinse and place in bottom of tank, attach all necessary tubing, valves and air pump. The check valve should be place approx 3-4 inches from air pump. Do not plug in your pump at this time. If not using an undergravel filter install according to manufacturer's directions. Do not plug your filter in at this time. **8** Add gravel and decorations (rinse thoroughly before adding to aquarium). **9** Install airstone for bubbles, airline tubing, valves and air pump at this time if you have not already. **10** If no leaks, fill tank the rest of the way with water. **11** Add water conditioner and/or any additives to tank. **12** Place heater into tank **DO NOT PLUG IN AT THIS TIME**. Best place for heater depends on type of heater. Follow the instructions included with your heater and adjust your tank to the appropriate temperature (approx. 72° to 78°F). Be sure heater is installed appropriately to avoid over-heating. Wait at least 20 minutes to plug in your heater. **13** Install your thermometer according to the manufacturer's instructions. Your thermometer should be on the opposite end of the tank from your heater. **14** Place hood and light onto tank. **15** Plug in your filter, light, air pump and heater. Make sure the cords running from your tank touch the ground before looping back up to the plug. This is called a "drip loop" and prevents water from running down the cord into your electrical socket. **16** If water level drops, add as much de-chlorinated water as necessary to bring the water level to the correct level.



stabilizing / cycling

Allow tank to run for at least 24 to 48 hours before adding any fish. This allows gases in the water to dissipate and for water to heat up. Wait until cloudy water clears up before adding fish. There are additives that you can add to speed up this cycle. During the first few weeks, only a few hearty fish should be placed in the tank to initiate the nitrogen cycle and the water should be closely monitored for ammonia and nitrate levels.

shopping list

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> filter & heater | <input type="checkbox"/> water conditioner & additives |
| <input type="checkbox"/> air pump (tubing, valves, etc) | <input type="checkbox"/> thermometer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> hood (cover & light fixture) | <input type="checkbox"/> gravel / decorations |

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