



Tropical Freshwater Fish Aquarium Set Up

Set up the tank and associated equipment in a position that does not get direct or excessive sunlight. Ensure it is on a suitable level solid base or stand and that a styrene base is under the tank. (1 litre of water weighs approximately 1kg. e.g. a 100 litre tank holds 100kg of water)

1. Thoroughly wash the gravel with water only, and then add to the tank. (NB: first install undergravel filter if applicable)
2. Add decorations (e.g. rocks, ornaments, air stones etc.)
3. Fill tank with water and add water conditioners as per directions. Add live plants.
4. Test pH and adjust to 7.0
5. Test GH and adjust to around 160 ppm to 180 ppm. (Community Tank).
6. Consult Coburg Aquarium re water chemistry for specialized tanks or fish.
7. Set heater to 24 – 27 C and turn on.
8. Turn on any air pumps or auxiliary filters.
9. After 24 - 48 hours check the temperature and test the hardness. Adjust if necessary.
10. Let the aquarium operate for 7 days before introducing any fish

After 7 days bring a 100 ml sample of your aquarium water to our store and we will conduct a courtesy water test to ensure the conditions are correct before you buy any fish. Advice will be given if any changes are necessary. Our staff will also advise you on some suitable fish to initially stock in your aquarium. Please note that the amount of fish in a new aquarium must be increased slowly over the first 4 – 6 weeks (introducing too many fish too soon may result in failure.)

After introducing your new fish, do not feed them for 24 hours. Thereafter feed the fish once or twice per day and only put in enough food so that it is totally eaten in 30 seconds. Over feeding will pollute the aquarium resulting in the death of the fish.

If you have a light on your tank it should be on for a maximum of 8 hours per day, as too much light will promote algae growth.

Maintenance

- Change 10% to 25% of the water each fortnight. Preferably use a gravel siphon to clean the gravel while changing water.
- Add water conditioners as per directions only for the amount of water changed.
- One hour after the water change, check pH and hardness and adjust accordingly.
- Add plant fertiliser weekly if applicable.

Auxiliary Filters

Internal Filter – Filter sponge should be cleaned weekly* and the impeller checked monthly.

Canister Filter – Flow rate should be checked weekly to ensure the filter is not blocking up. Otherwise filter maintenance* can be done on a monthly basis or in accordance with the manufacturer's directions. *Rinse sponge/filter media in water removed from your tank rather than in tapwater, to protect nitrifying bacteria.

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