



Tropical Fish Setup Instructions

1. Location - an aquarium can be part of the decor of any room, but should be kept away from direct sunlight (causes excess algae), drafts and heat vents.

2. Placement - aquarium stands provide stable, sturdy support and come in a variety of styles. Some household furniture may support an aquarium, but make sure it is strong (aquariums weigh nearly 10 lbs. per gallon when filled), flat and level. Whatever the base, all four corners of the aquarium must touch the base before filling. It is sometimes necessary to shim the aquarium (place pieces of cardboard under one or more corners) to level it.

3. Install Sponge Filter - assemble as per package, attach end of airline tubing, then place in rear corner of aquarium.

4. Wash Gravel - most pre-packaged gravels need no washing. All natural-type gravels need to be rinsed thoroughly. Place 5 to 10 lbs. of gravel into a large bucket and fill with lukewarm water. Stir gravel and pour off water. Repeat until rinse water is clear. Place rinsed gravel into aquarium, burying sponge portion of sponge filter.
Never use soaps or detergents on anything that is to be used in an aquarium!

5. Fill Aquarium - to about 3 inches from top with water about 75o F. City of Milwaukee water (or West Allis, Greenfield, Wauwatosa) is excellent. Well water (New Berlin, Franklin, Brookfield, etc.) may be used, but certain species of fish may be hard to acclimate. If possible, use half hard and half softened water.

6. Install Air System - hang gang valve on top edge of back of aquarium. Cut section of airline to go from sponge filter to nearest vertical valve spigot and attach. Attach airline to airstone and place airstone in back corner opposite sponge filter. Trim airline and attach to next vertical valve spigot. Use remaining airline to connect air pump to horizontal valve spigot. Cut airline approximately 6 inches from pump and insert check valve. (Check valve only allows air to flow in one direction - check by blowing into it.)

7. Install Power Filter - see directions with filter for assembly. Hang filter on back of aquarium.

8. Mount Hood/Light Unit - cut out back section (a small steak knife or fine tooth saw works well) to accommodate heater and power filter (slide power filter to line up with opening). Airlines go through slots in corners of cover.

9. Mount Heater - through hood. Do not plug in heater yet (see heater instructions). Attach to back glass of aquarium.

10. Attach Thermometer - to outside aquarium glass - above gravel line.

11. Decorate - Slope gravel towards back corners. Add other decorations to taste. Airstone may be buried in gravel or hidden behind rocks or plants.

12. Top Off Aquarium - with 75° F water.

13. Plug In - air pump, heater and light. Adjust heater as per instructions on box.

14. Adjust Air Volume - close the valve to the sponge filter and open the "bleeder" (no airline attached) valve fully. Slowly close bleeder until airstone bubbles vigorously but does not splash. Then open sponge filter valve slowly until it also bubbles. ***Leave bleeder valve partly open!***

15. Add Aquarium Salt (1 Tablespoon/5gal) and **Start Right™** (1 teaspoon/5gal)

16. Wait at least 24 hours before adding fish or live plants.

**** *New Tank Syndrome* ****

A brand new or thoroughly cleaned aquarium goes through a "break-in" period during which the water chemistry is unbalanced and quite dangerous to the fish. The more fish and food in the aquarium, the more dangerous the cycle. It is recommended that only a few, hardy fish be added to a new aquarium and fed one small meal per day. The cycle usually takes 3 to 5 weeks to complete in freshwater, starting with the day the first fish are added. We can easily check to see if your tank has completed this cycle if you bring in a water sample. Do not add fish while the cycle is in progress.



Salt Water Tank Set Up

*Instructions for 55 gallon tank
divide or multiply for your tank size.*

1. Use crushed coral for a base (NOT aquarium gravel or Dolomite...) Crushed coral will maintain ph where aquarium gravel or Dolomite won't.
 2. Trickle system filter -- good for reef and reef fish--consists of overflow tube to sump tank return line and pump. Fluval or magnum canister type filter good for fish only --- not recommended for reef, except as secondary filter. Trickle filter good for good bacteria growth; canister filter better for cleaning tank.
 3. Safe temperature range ... 72°-80°
 4. Partial water changes recommended every 1-2 months as needed to keep water clear and fish healthy. Salt does not evaporate as water does, however, fish absorb nutrients etc. from the water making water changes needed.
 5. Instant ocean or coralife seamix salt mixes to make salinity at 1.020 -- this should be measured with a hydrometer. Salt mix should be pre-measured before pouring into tank. Mix slow and thorough. If specific gravity is too high, add fresh water ... too low, add more salt mix.
 6. When all set and running biozyme can be added to help "start" the tanks biological filtration.
 7. **WAIT ONE TO TWO WEEKS** if using biozyme then add a few fish --- watch ammonia and nitrate levels. These should rise and then plateau then fall to zero level. ... This is now a cycled tank is ready to add fish, inverts and rocks as needed.
 8. **Sump tank below fish tank** needs to maintain a 3-4" water level for sump pump to pump water back up to the main tank via tube and return elbow. --Overflow tank uses gravity water feed to sump pump passing through bio-balls and/or filter media --air line tubing has to be inserted into the rigid elbow from the tank to the overflow then suck out the air to start the water syphon.
 9. If much rock and/or coral are to be added use of a powerhead is recommended to keep water circulating and avoid "dead spots" -- water must be kept moving in marine tanks.
 10. **Lights should be on no more than 8 hours a day**---bulbs las an average of six months --- inverts such as corals and anemones need stronger bulbs made for marine tanks and will only be active when lights are on.
- Be patient -- salt water tanks can't be rushed!***