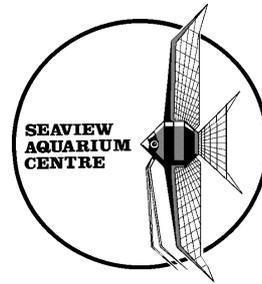


GUIDE TO SUCCESSFUL AQUARIUM KEEPING



TREATMENT OF WATER BEFORE USE FOR AQUARIUM FISH

To be sure your water is safe for use in the aquarium the following steps should be taken.

1/ Chlorine in tap water should be neutralised before adding to aquarium using a good quality anti-chlorine solution. e.g. Tri-Start, Genesis or AquaSafe etc.

2/ Chloramines (a combination of chlorine and ammonia) are sometimes present in main water supplies. Often chloramines are placed into water supplies in the warmer months. If you think you may have this in your water we recommend you use four times the dose of chlorine remover and an ammonia removing resin. *PLEASE REFER TO SEPARATE SHEET ON CHLORAMINES.*

3/ Rainwater is too soft for most fish. Hardness test kits are recommended for rain water to establish if additives are needed to harden up the rainwater. Hardness can be adjusted up or down if necessary by using conditioning salts or softening kits.

4/ pH should be checked and adjusted if necessary.

5/ Ammonia may be present in new aquariums or aquariums that have been cleaned thoroughly, as there may not be enough Nitrosomonas bacteria to feed on ammonia to convert it to nitrite. Ammonia is excreted by fish and also expelled through the gills. To ensure this won't harm your fish keep your pH at neutral and use products such as Pura-Water, Cycle or Biozyme (some of the many products available) which help to increase the numbers of Nitrosomonas bacteria naturally. If Ammonia is at toxic levels an ammonia removing resin may also be used to absorb excess ammonia.

6/ For special fish like discus, cardinals, rummy nose, neons, humic acids and tannins can be added directly to the aquariums by way of filtration through peat moss or with conditioners such as Blackwater extract, Duplagan. etc.

MONITOR AQUARIUM WATER QUALITY

Water in your aquarium needs to be checked regularly. Water quality is affected by water temperature, available oxygen, suspended solids, pH, hardness, total dissolved solids, filtration flow and the number of fish in the aquarium. Test kits are available to check most conditions.

HOW TO INTRODUCE NEW FISH

1/ We recommend that fish are taken directly from the store to their new home a.s.a.p. When a journey home is greater than 1 hour it is recommended that the fish bags are filled with oxygen (O₂).

2/ Open plastic bag and float on the top of the aquarium

to acclimatise the temperature between the water in the bag and the aquarium. (this may take about 10 minutes).

3/ Check the pH of the aquarium and the water in the plastic bags. During the 10 minutes slowly acclimatise the fish to the new water by dipping the bag a few times. Then let the fish out.

4/ Fish should be introduced slowly. Build up the numbers of fish over approximately 6 weeks. This ensures that the aquarium does not suffer from new tank syndrome. New tank syndrome is where the fish may succumb to ammonia poisoning. If fish show signs of this e.g. rapid gill pumping, blood spots and are listless, use an ammonia removing resin and one of the liquid or powder products to encourage Nitrosomonas bacteria.

DAILY ROUTINE

1/ Inspect aquarium for any ill or dead fish.

2/ Plant any plants that may have floated up during the night.

3/ Check that the temperature is correct. Tropical aquariums should be between 25 to 28 degrees celcius.

4/ Feed fish two to three times a day, being careful not to overfeed. All the food should be consumed in about 1 minute.

WEEKLY ROUTINE

1/ Do water quality checks weekly and take steps to correct if necessary. e.g. pH, Ammonia, GH, KH, etc.

2/ Top up aquariums and use water conditioners if necessary. Ensure tap water is free of chlorine. (Use chlorine neutraliser.)

3/ Clean algae from glass using one of the many cleaning utensils available for this purpose. e.g. Magnet cleaner, razor scraper etc.

4/ Check filters and clean if necessary the material in air operated or power filters.

FORTNIGHTLY ROUTINE

1/ 1/3 Water change should be carried out. Use a syphon gravel cleaner for this, as it removes detritus and algae accumulated in the gravel.

2/ Repeat your weekly routine.

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