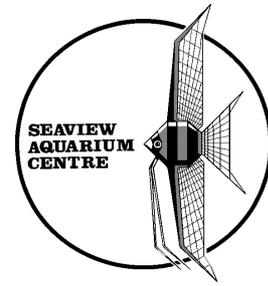


GUIDE TO A SUCCESSFUL BOWL



PLACING YOUR BOWL

When placing the bowl make sure that it is not placed next to air cooling or heating outlets and try to avoid drafts so as not to affect temperatures. Make sure that the bowl is fully supported and that the furniture or table used to display the bowl can support the weight. (Keep in mind that 1 litre of water is equivalent to 1 kilogram plus the weight of the glass and decorator items, gravel etc.)

Do not place bowls above or on televisions, stereo systems or any electrical items that may be damaged by water spills.

CARING FOR YOUR BOWL

If your bowl's glass is dirty a soft moist cloth or chamois can be used to wipe the external panels. When the bowl has been set up algae and wastes can build up on the internal panels, again a soft cloth or one of the many dedicated cleaning utensils available can be used to wipe the panels clean. Do not use detergents or soaps to clean the glass (internal or external) as they may kill your fish. Take care when lifting the bowl to support it from the bottom. If the bowl is full of water remove water before lifting and support from the bottom.

DON'T

1. Don't move the bowl containing any water or gravel, this can result in a crack or damage.
2. Don't leave an empty bowl in the sun.
3. Don't subject the bowl to impacts with hard objects.
4. Don't place heavy objects on top of the bowl.
5. Don't spray insecticides around your bowl.

MONITOR BOWL WATER QUALITY

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

TREATMENT OF WATER BEFORE USE

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/ 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.
- 3/ pH should be checked and adjusted if necessary.
- 4/ Ammonia may occur in newly set up bowls or bowls 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.

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

3/ Check the pH of the bowl 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.

DAILY ROUTINE

- 1/ Inspect bowl for any ill or dead fish.
- 2/ Plant any plants that may have floated up during the night.
- 3/ 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.
- 2/ 1/3 water change should be carried out. 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.
- 4/ If a filter is being used check and clean if necessary.
- 5/ If the gravel is due for a clean, remove and keep back at least half of the water from the bowl. (the fish from the bowl can be placed into this water). After washing the gravel the water that has been kept back and the fish can be placed back into the bowl. Top up the difference with new water.

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