



## **Amazon Aquatics**

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### **Setting up and caring for your fish tank**

#### **Setting up a tropical tank**

Once you've set up your aquarium and added your gravel, ornaments and decor; fill your tank with cold water and treat with dechlorinator. You will need to allow your temperature to stabilise at a safe level for the fish you intend to keep. If it's a community tank then the temperature of 25 degrees Celsius or 77 degrees Fahrenheit is perfect. You also need to make sure the gas bubbles have dispersed from your glass; this usually takes 3-5 days. Then it is time to test your water, pH, ammonia and nitrite. If these readings are correct you can add a small group of hardy fish – neon tetras, platies, danios, - with a bacteria booster/instant cycle product to add beneficial bacteria to aid in your nitrogen cycle and help mature your aquarium. Observe your fish closely and test your water regularly for the first few weeks and be careful not to overfeed as your filter bacteria is not ready to cope with too much waste this early. Or alternatively you can do a fishless cycle which can take up to 8 weeks for the ammonia to naturally aid in the growth of beneficial bacteria before adding your fish.

**Feel free to call in and speak to us for any more information on this subject.**

#### **Starting to clean**

Once you have gone through your nitrogen cycle and your pH is stable and your ammonia and nitrite levels are zero, you are ready to start doing water changes. We advise one small water change of 10% to 20% weekly depending on the stocking level of your tank. You do this by means of a gravel vac. They are a tool that siphons the water out while you dig it into the gravel. This removes all the detritus and waste whilst leaving your gravel in the tank. If this is not done, decaying waste under the gravel can compact and cause nitrogen gas bubbles to form. When disturbed these bubbles can pollute the water and kill fish. You will also need to clean the sponges and any other media you have in your filter. To do this, simply wash them in the water taken from your tank (not under the tap as this kills all your bacteria). After taking out the desired amount of water you can fill up with cold dechlorinated water for a small water change. But for larger water changes you can leave the water overnight to warm or if you have a combi-boiler you can take the chill off the water to reduce the stress to the fish. It is important never to change all of the tank water at once as this will kill your beneficial bacteria, shock the fish and cause your tank to go through the nitrogen cycle all over again.

**Feel free to call in and speak to us for any more information on this subject or other products we sell to aid in keeping your tank at its cleanest.**