



**Thank you for purchasing the Aquatic Life Mini Skimmer 151.**

When maintained properly, this unit will provide you with years of service.

**OVERVIEW**

Protein skimmers create thousands of tiny bubbles to efficiently remove organic waste materials from the saltwater aquarium water. The air bubbles attract and condense these organics into foam and lift it to the collection cup for convenient removal.

The mini skimmer is designed to work with marine and reef aquariums up to 40 gallons and operate inside the aquarium.

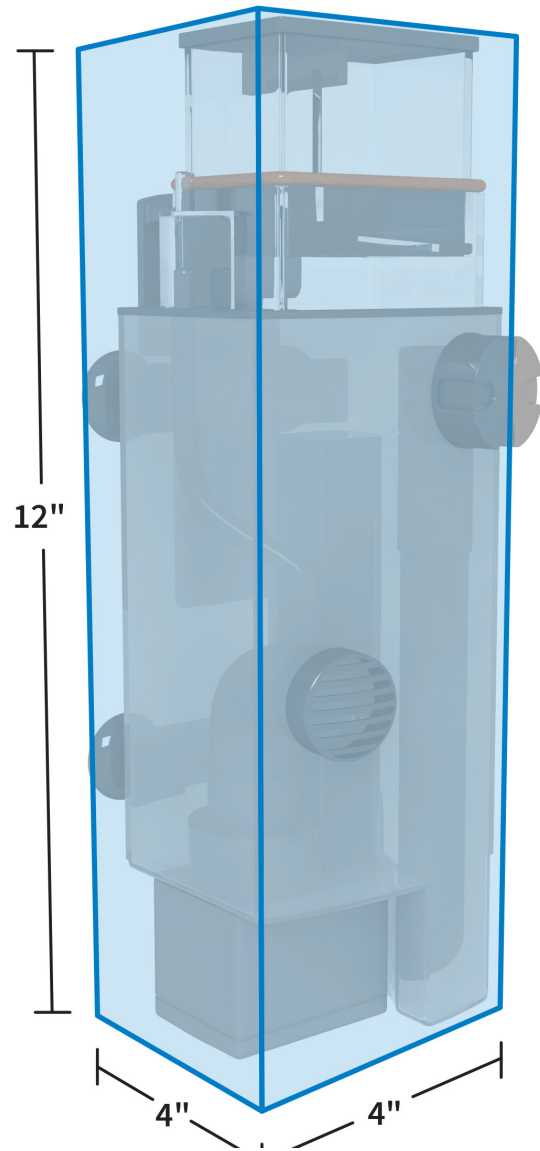


**Scan QR Code for  
Installation Instructions**

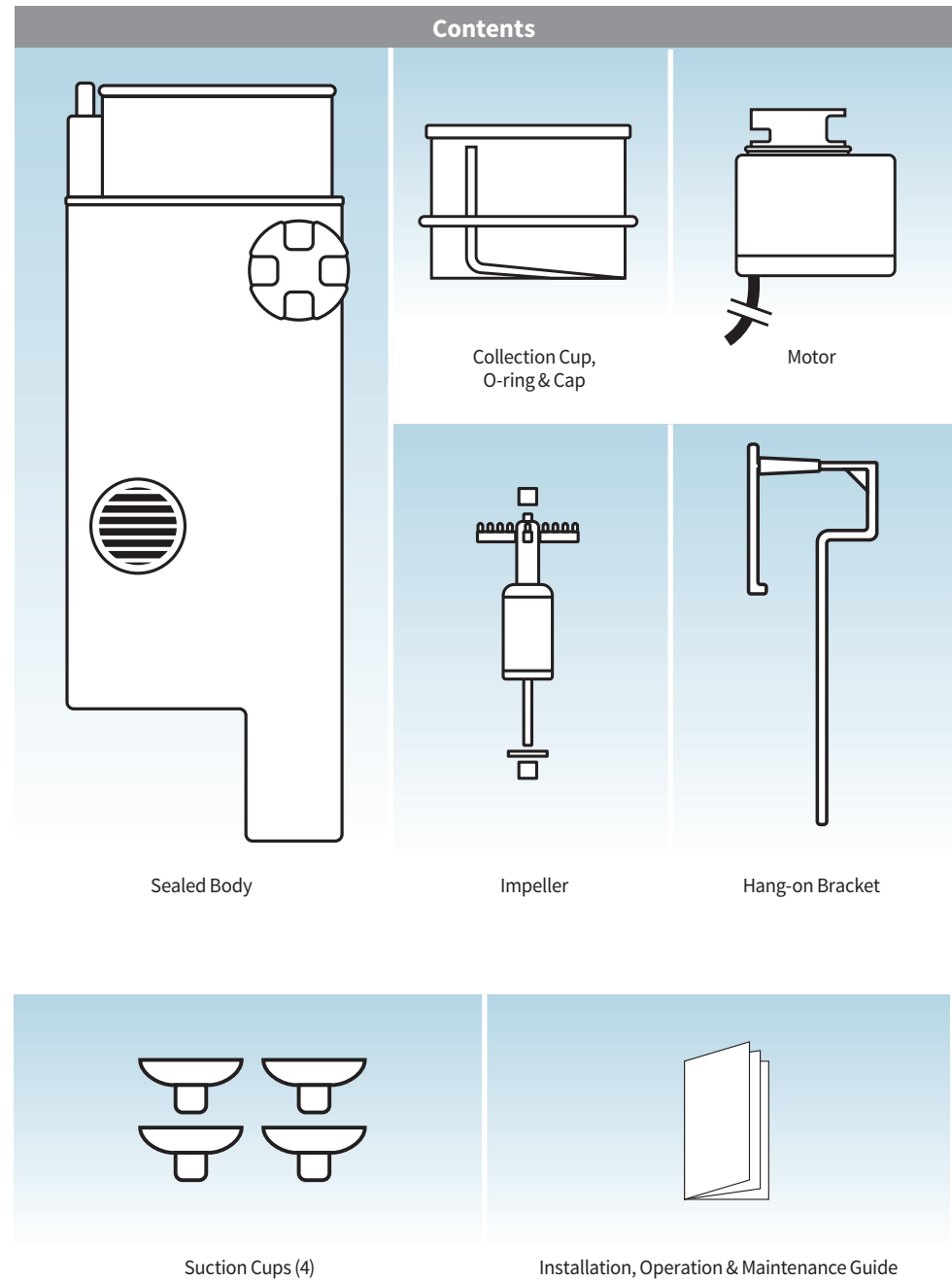
Web Link: [qrs.ly/b5dnspc](https://qrs.ly/b5dnspc)

For technical assistance or warranty issues, contact Aquatic Life at [customersupport@aquaticlife.com](mailto:customersupport@aquaticlife.com)

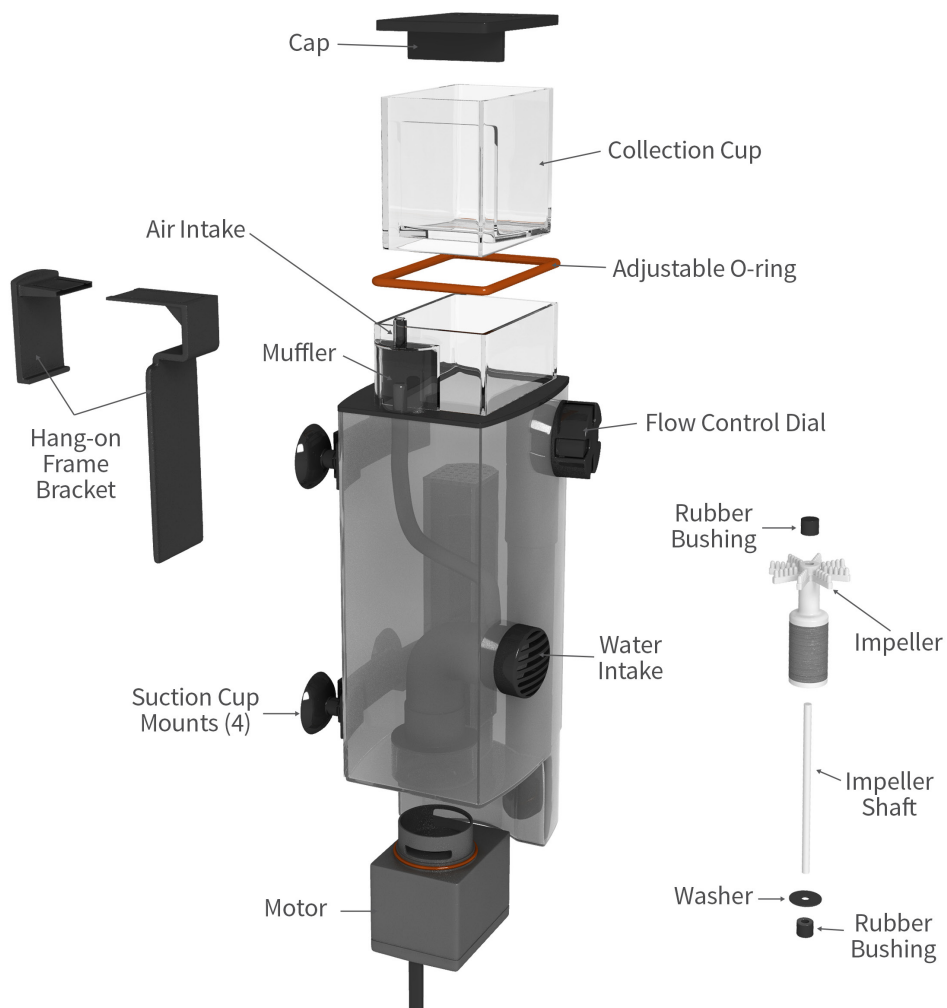
### MINIMUM SPACE REQUIRED FOR OPERATION



### Contents



## BECOMING FAMILIAR WITH YOUR MINI SKIMMER 151

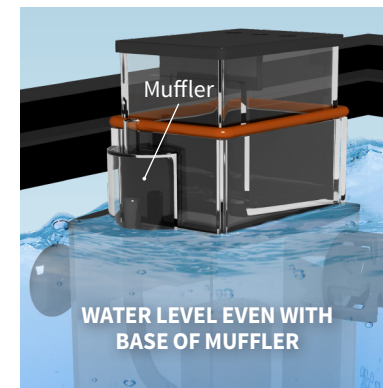


## INITIAL SETUP

There are two options for securing the Mini Skimmer in the aquarium – the suction cups or bracket.

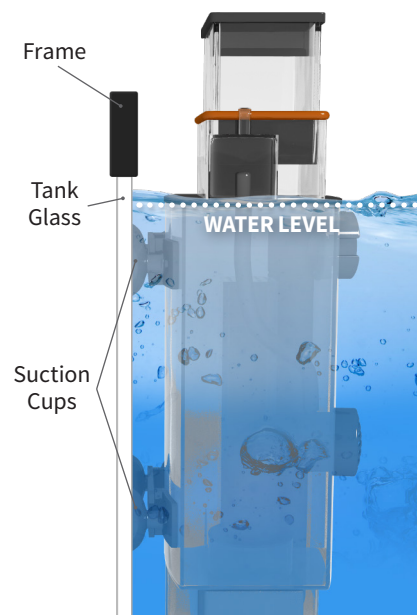
Start by placing the skimmer in the water so the top of the water is even with the base of the muffler. The skimmer can operate in different levels of water because the skimming can be controlled by adjusting the height of the collection cup and the amount of flow through the unit.

Refer to the next sections for Collection Cup and Flow Control set-up.



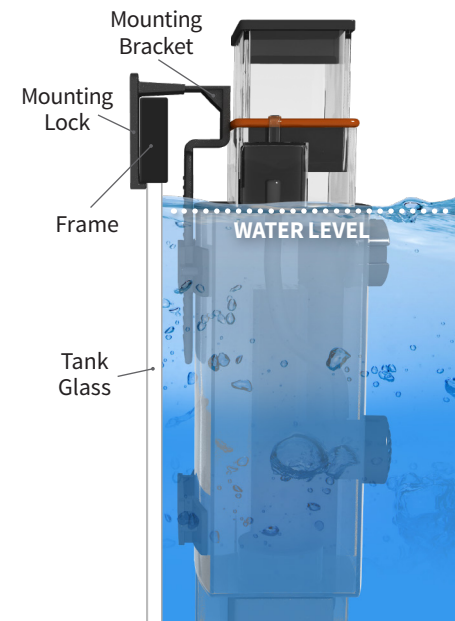
### SUCTION CUPS MOUNT (Option 1)

The suction cups press onto the four studs on the back of the skimmer for secure mounting to the inside aquarium surface. Make sure to remove any algae or debris on the aquarium surface prior to attaching with the suction cups.



### BRACKET MOUNT (Option 2)

Slide the mounting lock onto the mounting bracket and then slide the mounting bracket with the mounting lock into the top mounting clip on the Mini Skimmer.



**NOTE:** You can use both the suction cups & mounting bracket together.

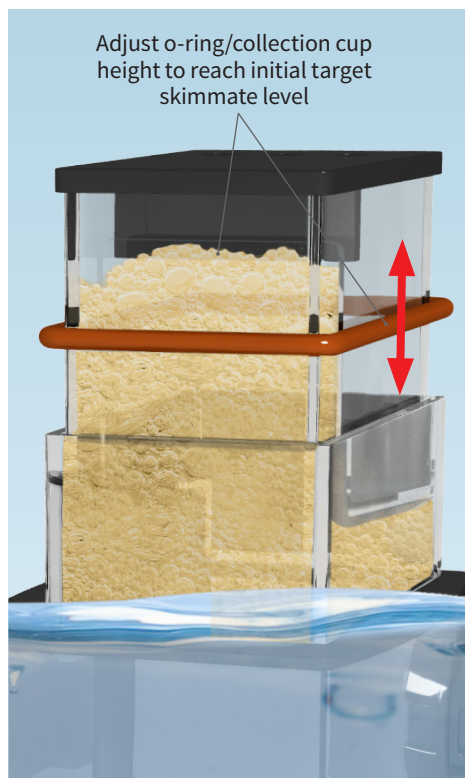
## COLLECTION CUP INITIAL SETUP

When the skimmer is first installed, it may produce a lot of foam (known as skimmate) as it removes the built-up proteins in the water.

To avoid the cup filling up too quickly, you can position the cup at a higher level. The collection cup height can be adjusted using the rubber o-ring. Sliding the o-ring down will raise the collection cup height.

The goal is to have the bubbles travel up the side channel in the cup and carry the proteins with them. Too many bubbles will fill the cup with water. Too few bubbles will not produce any skimmate.

Initially, adjust the cup so that the bubbles just reach the top of the side channel, but don't flow into the collection cup.

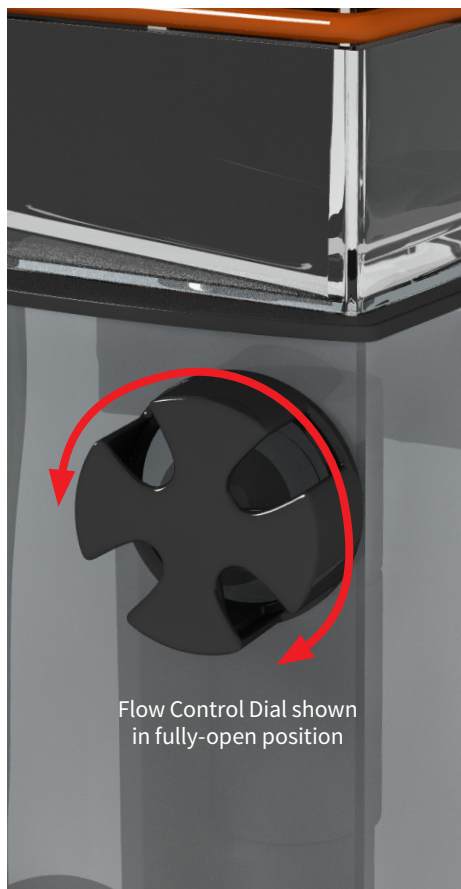


## FLOW CONTROL INITIAL SETUP

In addition to controlling the skimmate with the collection cup height, the flow control dial can be adjusted. For initial setup, make sure the flow control dial is completely open.


This allows the maximum water to flow out of the skimmer, providing less time for the water and air to mix and form the bubbles.

Run the skimmer for several hours and observe what is collected in the collection cup. If no skimmate is collected, close the flow control dial a little. Repeat this process until you start to see the collection cup filling with skimmate.



## UNIT MAINTENANCE



  
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### COLLECTION CUP

When the Collection Cup is full of skimmate, empty the cup, rinse with water and return to the skimmer base.

### WATER INTAKE & FLOW CONTROL DIAL

With dry hands, unplug the skimmer from the power outlet. Use a non-abrasive brush to clean any build-up on the Water Intake and Flow Control Dial. Return skimmer to operation.

### COMPLETE CLEANING - IF BUBBLE PRODUCTION SLOWS

With dry hands, unplug the skimmer from the power outlet. Remove the skimmer from the aquarium and remove the Motor by twisting it 90°.

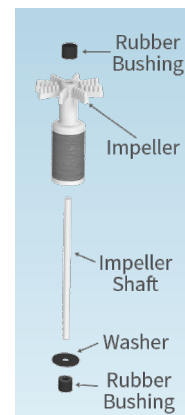
Soak the Sealed Body, Motor and other parts in **freshwater** for several hours. Use a non-abrasive brush to remove any build-up.

When removing the impeller, use care not to lose the small parts. (see diagram for help with reassembly).

After cleaning, reassemble the skimmer and **submerge it completely under tap water (NOT SALT WATER)** in a five gallon bucket.

Plug in the skimmer and run for 15 minutes. This draws water through the Muffler and cleans the inside of the unit.

Drain the freshwater from the skimmer and reinstall in the aquarium.



## TROUBLESHOOTING

### NO FOAM (SKIMMATE) BEING COLLECTED

#### Solutions:

- 1) Reduce the height of the collection cup by adjusting the o-ring upward.
- 2) Close the flow control dial slightly. Repeat every few hours as necessary until bubbles start rising in collection cup.
- 3) Ensure the air intake is above water level.
- 4) Make sure the air intake is not plugged or obstructed. To operate properly, the unit must be able to pull in air and mix with the water.

### TOO MUCH SKIMMATE IS COLLECTED

#### Solutions:

- 1) Make sure the flow control dial is fully open. This should reduce the bubble column height.
- 2) Raise the collection cup to allow the bubbles to collect under the cup. This concentrates the bubbles in the skimmer before flowing into the collection cup.
- 3) Doing both is possible too. Will depend on how much material is in the water that is creating the bubbles to stay together longer.

### INCONSISTENT PERFORMANCE

**Solution:** Maintain a consistent water level. If the water level drops, the skimmer may not produce as much skimmate.

If, after a break-in period of several weeks, the skimmer is still producing a lot of skimmate, it is possible that the fish food or other water additives are being removed by the skimmer. Try skipping a day of feeding and see if the food is the issue. Likewise, pay attention to the skimmer performance when you add anything to the aquarium water.

## LIMITED WARRANTY

Aquatic Life warrants that this product shall be free from defective electrical components and leaks or cracks due to defects in materials or workmanship for a period of twelve (12) months from the date of purchase.

If a defect is shown, Aquatic Life will, at Aquatic Life's sole discretion, either repair or replace the product without charge. No cash refunds will be made. This warranty is provided solely to the original consumer purchaser of the product and may not be transferred or assigned.

This warranty does not apply to damage resulting from accident, misuse, abuse, lack of reasonable care, failure to follow safety and installation instructions, use of the product with non-standard electrical service, or any other defect not resulting from defects in the electrical components of the product or defects in materials or workmanship. This warranty will not be effective unless and until the Aquatic Life product is shown to have been used in accordance with the safety and installation instructions accompanying the product.

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Aquatic Life shall not have any obligations under this warranty unless the owner notifies Aquatic Life in writing of any alleged defect(s) within 30 days of discovery of the defect(s). Any notice to Aquatic Life must be delivered by United States or electronic mail to the following address:

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**9710 Klingerman St. | S. El Monte, CA 91733**  
**CustomerSupport@aquaticlife.com**  
**www.aquaticlife.com**



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**NEED HELP?** Contact Aquatic Life at  
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