

# SETTING UP YOUR NEW AQUARIUM

**Keep this set up guide for quick reference & follow up service & advice.**

Congratulations on purchasing your new aquarium! Please take the time to follow these simple instructions to ensure that your tank set up is carried out correctly. Correct set up will help to ensure that your fish are healthy & that your aquarium runs trouble free.

**Positioning your aquarium** - It is important to carefully choose the right position for your aquarium before you fill it as you will be unable to move the tank later without completely draining it.

The aquarium should not be placed where it receives direct sunlight or in areas where it can be affected by large fluctuations in temperature such as near fires & heaters or under air conditioners. Ensure that you position your aquarium on a level, stable & sturdy surface.

**Wash the gravel & add to the aquarium** - Wash your aquarium gravel in tap water. Using a salad colander can make this process faster & cleaner. Add the gravel to the aquarium creating an even layer across the base of the aquarium.

*Remember that when full your aquarium will be very heavy as 1 litre of water is equal to 1kg of weight!*

**Fill the aquarium with water** - Add the water to the aquarium until it is approximately 2cm from the top of the tank. It is safe to fill your aquarium with tap water as you will add water conditioners in later steps to make it safe and healthy for the type of fish that you are planning on keeping.

The aquarium can usually be filled using a bucket, however if you have an aquarium over 100 litres you may find it easier to fill it using the garden hose!

**Installing & switching on the equipment** - Some aquariums come with separate filters whilst others have the filtration units built into them. Follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully regarding the set up of the filter & once complete, switch the unit on at the power.

*(For tropical tanks only)* If you have a tropical aquarium you will also have to install the heater. All heaters can be completely submersed under the water. Position the heater at the opposite end of the aquarium to the filter. Leave the heater submersed in the water for about 30 minutes prior to switching it on.

If your aquarium has a light it should run for no more than 8 - 10 hours each day. This can be achieved by using a timer.



# SETTING UP YOUR NEW AQUARIUM

Continued.....

**Adding the water conditioners** - You will require two types of water conditioners. One is a liquid, the other is a salt. The liquid is used to remove the chlorine & chloramine that is found in tap water & will aid in the slime coat production on the fish. The salt assists in reducing the outbreak of disease in the aquarium & also aids in cell function of the fish.

**Checking and adjusting the pH of the water** - One of the most important factors that can affect the health of fish is the pH of the water. The pH can be acidic, neutral or alkaline. A neutral pH is best for goldfish & tropical fish. The pH can be tested using your pH test kit.

Follow the directions on the test kit to test the water. If the water is either too alkaline (blue colour on the test kit means pH needs to be lowered) or too acid (yellow colour on the test kit means pH needs to be raised) you will need to adjust it. If you have no fish in the aquarium you can adjust & check the pH every 30 minutes until it is correct. If you have fish in the aquarium, you should only adjust it every 6 hrs. Once the pH is correct, you should test on a weekly basis and after each water change.

**Adding the fish, plants & decorations** - The primary waste product that fish produce is ammonia. Ammonia is highly toxic even at low levels. Fortunately, naturally occurring bacteria grow in the aquarium that help to breakdown this ammonia. These bacteria occur on every surface in the aquarium & take about 6 - 8 weeks to grow.

During this period you should avoid stocking the aquarium too quickly. We will advise you on the stocking ratio that best suits your aquarium.

Allow 10 - 14 days between adding each lot of fish. You can add plants & decorations to your aquarium at any time & many as you like. If you are planning on growing live plants, you will need to fertilise them on a regular basis.

*Remember, take your time when adding fish to any new aquarium. Be patient & allow the good bacteria to establish to provide a healthy environment first.*

