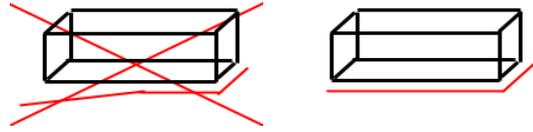


Start the Aquarium

Step 1 Placing the aquarium:

Place the aquarium on a flat surface as horizontal as possible. If needed, use a sleeping pad or Styrofoam as foundation. Be sure that there will be no "break". Also, the furniture should withstand the weight of the aquarium.



Step 2 Content:

Most sand and gravel bought in shops should be washed before put in the aquarium. This is easily done by filling a 10L bucket of sand up to 1L. Then rinse with a hard stream of water into the sand and stir with your hand. You'll quickly discover that the water becomes cloudy. Repeat rinsing until the water is clear. It is usually sufficient to rinse stones with water. Roots might be boiled to avoid discoloration of the aquarium water.

Step 3 Startup:

Fill the aquarium with water. The temperature does not matter that much, but around 27 degrees Celsius. Rather too cold than too warm. Try not to let the water "beat" down on the gravel as it can stir up dust from the bottom.

When you have filled up the aquarium with water you should add a water treatment agent, such as Sera Aquatan. Make sure not to overdose. Follow the directions on the bottle.



Any rocks, roots or decorations can be put down whenever you want. Just make sure to place the stones so they cannot fall on to the glass and cause damage.

Plants can be put in at any time. Just make sure to purchase the plants the same day they are to be introduced in the aquarium because they do not survive in the bag for too long. The plants are usually delivered in small pots. These pots should be removed together with the wool-like material found in the pot. However, be careful not to break the roots.

Now, let the aquarium stand undisturbed for one week before the first fishes are introduced.

Step 4 Fish:

Why do you have to wait a week before the fishes are introduced? Well, it's because inside your pump or filter the filter media house a bacterial culture. In order for this bacterial culture to start forming it is necessary to wait a week. These bacteria convert harmful elements in the tank to substances that plants can use as nutrients. To give an extra kick to your bacteria culture also add liquid filter media such as Seras Nitrivec (always follow the directions on the bottle). Along with water treatment agents this will allow you to introduce fish to the aquarium as soon as one week after the startup.



Start the Aquarium

Step 5 Care:

Daily care consists of feeding. Most often you should feed less than you think. Fish always seem to be hungry but that does not mean they can eat very much food. A fish eats until it's full and the rest of the food goes down to the bottom and rot. One rule is that food should never have time to reach the bottom.

- **Water Changes** should be made every other week. If you have a very small aquarium or a lot of fish, you should change the water more frequently. All aquariums have some algae but that's normal. Scrape off the algae with a magnet scraper or razor blade.



Then use a siphon to change the water while cleaning the gravel on the bottom. The amount of water you change is about 1/3 of the aquarium volume. Add fresh water with approximately the same temperature as in the tank. The first water change should be done 4 weeks after the startup of the aquarium.

- **Clean the filter** as seldom as possible. When you see that the pump works less efficiently open it and clean the filter and impeller. However, do not clean the filter at the same day that you change water. It is good to check the pump and filter occasionally, until you have learned how often they need cleaning. When you clean the filter, rinse the filter sponge in cold water. Do not make it too clean. It is good to check the pump at least every other month. It is especially important to clean the impeller, otherwise the pump may break.
- **Plants.** When plants grow too high, you need to trim them. Plants where the leaves grow out from the you pull the whole leaf off from the bottom. Plants without stem, where all leaves grow from the bottom you take away the whole leaf. Plants in which the leaves grow on a stem you can break the whole plant in half and replant the top.

If you have problems, it rarely helps to clean the whole aquarium. You only destroy the bacterial culture and you will get new problems. Instead, ask at your aquarium shop for help.

Do you have more questions? Please contact us at Akvarie-Hobby or Djur-Hobby and we'll help you.

018-261200, www.akvariehobby.se

018-120622, www.djurhobby.se

