Setting up a tropical aquarium

For more information: www.tetra.net
A well cared for aquarium provides the perfect focal point to any room, as well as being both fascinating and relaxing. With Tetra’s range of high quality and simple-to-use products, it has never been easier to create an attractive underwater display.

For more than 50 years Tetra has been the global leader for aquarium products, committed to making aquarium ownership easy and enjoyable through continual innovation and unrivalled customer support. Every Tetra product has been subject to rigorous testing by our independently accredited Research & Development laboratories - the largest of their kind in the world, to ensure they keep your fish and aquarium in top condition.
Planning your aquarium

Before purchasing your aquarium, it is important to think about what you want from it, and where you are going to place it. Taking a few moments to do this will avoid problems later on, and make setting up your new aquarium easier.

Types of aquarium

Before going ahead and choosing an aquarium, it is a good idea to think about what sort of fish you want to keep. There are hundreds, if not thousands, of tropical fish to choose from, many of which require special care and attention. For these more demanding species, a particular aquarium set-up may be required. Therefore, if there are specific fish you want to keep, you should check their requirements with your aquatics outlet before going ahead.

Most aquarium owners will opt for a community aquarium. This will contain a good mixture of different fish, all of which live happily together, and which do not require special care or equipment. A community aquarium may contain live plants or artificial ones, and can be decorated in many different ways. This flexibility, and the fact they are easier to care for, makes a community set-up the best choice for first-time aquarium owners.

Size

The size of the aquarium will not only determine how many fish you can keep, but also how easy the aquarium is to care for.

Perhaps surprisingly, larger aquariums are generally easier to keep balanced and healthy. This is because their larger volume of water is less prone to sudden changes in water temperature and chemistry.

A larger aquarium also allows you to select a better choice of fish, and to create a more impressive display. As a rough guide, tropical fish require 1 litre of water for every 1cm of fish length. This refers to the final adult size of the fish, and not the size they are when purchased.

For example, a 60 litre aquarium can ultimately hold 60cm of fish. However, taking into account the final size of the fish, this may equate to 20-30cm when they are first added. Your aquatics outlet can advise you on the eventual size of the fish you want to keep.
Position

As well as providing a focal point to the room, you want your aquarium to be in a position that is ideal for healthy fish and plants, and good water clarity. A filled aquarium is heavy, so thinking about its position now will avoid you having to move it in the future. An ideal position would be:

- In a reasonably quiet area, away from sudden bangs (e.g. not next to a door).
- Away from areas of very high activity.
- Away from sources of heat or cold (e.g. radiators).
- Easily accessible, to allow for any maintenance.
- Out of direct sunlight, to prevent algae growing.
- Well supported, to take the weight of the aquarium (a litre of water weighs approximately 1kg).
- Near to an electric supply to plug in equipment, but far enough away to avoid any danger of splashing.
Choosing your aquarium

Having planned for your aquarium, you can now discuss your requirements with your aquatics outlet. They will be able to show you some suitable options to choose from.

An important decision is whether to buy the aquarium and equipment separately, or as a complete kit. Modern aquariums usually come with the equipment included, which makes buying them easier. However, if you want a particularly large aquarium, or a more unusual design, you may need to buy it separately. Your aquatics outlet can advise you on exactly what is required.

**Tetra AquaArt Aquariums**

*Tetra AquaArt* aquariums have been designed to make aquarium ownership easy. As well as their modern, stylish design, every detail has been carefully considered for ease-of-use and healthy, clear water.

1. The innovative **Tetra EasyCrystal filter** is simple to use, and keeps water healthy and crystal clear.
2. The **Tetra EasyCrystal filter** is easy to clean and maintain, with a ‘one-touch’ system for easily replacing the filter cartridge without getting your hands wet.
3. Large, user-friendly openings in the hood for feeding and easy access to equipment.
4. Modern design based on exclusive **Tetra** research:
   - Innovative features
   - High quality materials
   - Silver colour to suit any décor
   - Awarded international IF Design award
5 Completely safe to set up and use thanks to excellent manufacturing and high-quality equipment.

6 The filter can be positioned easily in a number of different places, thanks to customised support slots.

7 High quality glass aquarium:
   - Distortionless float glass with smoothed edges, for better viewing
   - Stable hood with durable fluorescent tube, ideal for encouraging healthy plant growth

8 Complete with all equipment, set-up instructions, and Tetra food and care products.
Aquarium equipment

Whether they come separately or as part of the aquarium, there are some important items of equipment that are essential for a healthy, attractive aquarium.

**Filter**

Like all animals, fish produce a certain amount of waste. It is the filter’s job to process this waste, removing it from the main aquarium and making it safe for the fish. There are two types of waste that are important to the health of the aquarium:

1. **Solid waste** is mostly undigested or uneaten food. If allowed to accumulate it will cause the water to become murky, and reduce the quality of the environment.

2. **Dissolved waste** is primarily excreted by fish across their gills, and if not removed will accumulate rapidly to dangerous levels. The most important dissolved waste is ammonia.

A good quality filter, such as those in the TetraTec range, passes water through special media which removes both solid and dissolved wastes. They therefore make the water safe for fish, and are absolutely essential for a healthy aquarium.

Solid waste is removed by physical straining (‘mechanical filtration’), whilst the removal of dissolved waste depends on naturally occurring filter bacteria. These colonise the filter and turn ammonia into nitrite, and then into nitrate. This is known as ‘biological filtration’, or ‘nitrification’, and is central to good water quality.

There are two types of filter to choose from – ‘internal’ or ‘external’. Internal filters, such as the TetraTec INplus or TetraTec EasyCrystal fit inside the aquarium and contain media which carries out combined mechanical and biological filtration.

External filters, such as the TetraTec EX, sit outside the aquarium, and contain different types of media, including separate ones for biological and mechanical filtration. Because they contain a larger volume of media, as well as different types, the quality of filtration is better with an external filter, and they tend to need less maintenance.

For a small to medium sized community aquarium, with a sensible stock of fish, an internal filter will provide good filtration. For aquariums that are larger, more heavily stocked, or if you want to reduce the amount of maintenance required, an external filter may be a better option. Your aquatics outlet can provide you with further guidance to help you decide.
**TetraTec INplus**
- Powerful and easy-to-use internal filters.
- Two filter chambers to minimise loss of bacteria during replacement and cleaning.
- Filter chamber can be removed for cleaning without taking filter out of aquarium.
- Flow adjuster allows regulation of flow rate.
- Venturi system increases oxygen content of water.
- UV/GS tested, CE certified – safe and reliable.

**TetraTec EX**
- Powerful and quiet external filters, for the ultimate in filtration.
- Easy to assemble and access for maintenance.
- Supplied with all media.
- Filter start button makes starting filter simple and straightforward.
- Snap valve stops water flow for cleaning purposes, and prevents water leaking out.
- TUV/GS tested, CE certified – safe and reliable.
Heater

Most tropical fish require a temperature of 24-27°C to remain healthy. If it falls below this, they will quickly become unwell. Modern aquarium heaters, such as the TetraTec HT, have built-thermostats, to regulate the temperature of the water. This means all you have to do is set the dial to the temperature you want, and let the heater do the rest. Your aquatics outlet can help you select the right size of heater, or you can follow the on-pack instructions.

It is well worth using an aquarium thermometer to monitor the temperature of the water. This should be placed at the other end of the aquarium from the heater, to ensure heat is being evenly distributed. In large aquariums, or in very cold rooms, it may be better to have two heaters instead of one large one.

TetraTec HT aquarium heaters

- Reliable, high-performance heaters for a range of aquarium sizes.
- Electronic regulator and safety shut off for top reliability and safety.
- Temperature-setting dial for easily adjusting the desired water temperature, to an accuracy of 0.5°C.
- Extra-long cable for ease of installation.
- Extra thick shock and heat-resistant borosilicate glass.
- TUV/GS tested – safe and reliable.

Light

A light/dark cycle is a natural part of fishes’ lives, and live aquarium plants rely on good lighting to drive photosynthesis – the process by which they convert carbon dioxide and water into simple sugars. Ambient light levels are not sufficient to support these processes, and so you will need a proper aquarium light unit. These are designed to emit the correct spectrum of light for encouraging plant growth, and to bring out the natural colours of the fish. In addition, they will not become excessively hot, which is important as they need to be on for around 10-12 hours a day.

Light units can be bought separately and installed into most aquarium lids, or they may come as part of the aquarium kit. Tetra AquaArt aquariums come with a built-in light unit, specially designed for encouraging good plant growth.

Air pump

Air pumps, such as the TetraTec APS, are designed to deliver a constant flow of air into the aquarium, to increase oxygen levels. In addition they can be used to power air-driven ornaments.

Although adding an air pump is always beneficial, it is not necessarily essential if you have a good filter. This is because the flow produced by the filter can be used to aerate the water. In filters such as the TetraTec INplus
this is done with a special ‘venturi’ fitting which draws in air bubbles, whilst in external filters such as the TetraTec EX, the return flow is forced through a spray bar to increase water turbulence. If you have such a filter, and the aquarium is not overstocked with fish, an extra air pump may not be necessary.

In aquariums with a lot of fish, or where there is less water movement, you may want to consider adding an air pump to improve oxygen levels. TetraTec APS air pumps have been engineered to deliver excellent flow rates of air, whilst producing virtually no noise. When using an air pump, it is important to fit a check valve, such as TetraTec CV4, to prevent water back-siphoning into the pump. You will also need some airline and a diffuser stone.

**TetraTec APS air pumps**
- Very quiet and highly reliable
- Excellent flow rate of air, even in deeper aquariums
- Adjustable air-flow
- Twin outlets on larger models
- TUV/GS tested, CE certified – safe and reliable

**Equipment check list**
Aquarium, e.g. Tetra AquaArt
Filter, e.g. TetraTec Inplus, or EasyCrystal EX
Heater, e.g. TetraTec HT
Light
Air pump, e.g. TetraTec APS

For more information on aquarium equipment, see our ‘Aquarium Equipment’ brochure.
Decorating the Aquarium

**Aquarium Substrate**

Having chosen your aquarium and equipment, it is now time to select the furnishings. These are not only to make the aquarium look nice, but also have quite important functional benefits.

The first decision is which substrate to use to line the base of the aquarium. There is a huge selection available, and your aquatics outlet can advise you on its own ranges.

The most popular substrate, and an excellent one for a community aquarium, is pea gravel. This is ideal if you want to have live plants in the aquarium, as it provides a sufficient flow of water around the roots to keep them healthy. You will need a layer of 5-7cm (2-3in) for a planted aquarium, and 1-2cm (0.5-1in) in a non-planted one.

An increasingly popular alternative to pea gravel is sand, of which there are various types. Sand is not suitable for live plants, however it often remains cleaner than gravel because it does not trap dirt so easily. Make sure the sand you use is meant for aquariums, as some types may be too sharp, or alter the chemistry of the water.

Try to avoid brightly coloured substrates if possible, as these may unsettle the fish and prevent them from displaying their full intensity of natural colours.

Before use, the substrate will need to be well-washed to remove any dust. If this is not done, the aquarium will become murky when filled.

If you want live plants, lay a 2cm (0.75in) layer of TetraPlant CompleteSubstrate beneath the substrate. This creates an ideal environment for plant roots to develop, and delivers long-term fertilisation.

**Décor**

As well as allowing you to create a visually attractive underwater world, décor can be used to create an environment in which your fish feel more comfortable, and behave more naturally. There should be plenty of hiding places for them, where they can escape from view, as this will help them settle in more quickly and become more confident. When choosing décor, make sure it is from a safe source, such as your aquatics outlet. This will avoid the risk of it polluting the aquarium. There is a wide range of décor to choose from, including:
Rocks

These provide structure and focal points, and are great for building hiding places. Ensure the rocks you choose will not alter the chemistry of the water (inert rocks, such as slate, are best), and that they do not contain any metallic veins. If building complex structures, consider gluing the rocks together with aquarium silicone for greater stability. Your aquatics outlet can advise you further.

Bogwood

Bogwood provides a very natural look and feel to the aquarium, and is especially effective when combined with live plants. You will need to soak it for a few days before use, to draw out humic substances that can cause the water to turn yellow. These are not harmful, however they can reduce the clarity of the water. Once in the aquarium, if you do experience a slight yellowing of the water, you can easily remove this with activated carbon filter media. Your aquatics outlet can advise you on the correct media for your filter. All TetraTec filters either come with, or can be fitted with, carbon media.

Artificial ornaments come in all shapes, colours, and sizes; from imitation rocks and wood, through to brightly coloured, moving air-driven pieces. When choosing ornaments for your aquarium, consider how they will blend in with the overall design of the aquarium. Also, remember that moving ornaments will require an air-pump, such as the TetraTec APS.

Artificial plants

If possible, it is beneficial to your aquarium to have live plants. Not only do they create a more natural environment, they can also improve the quality of the water, and help to prevent algae. However, in some cases you may prefer to opt for artificial ones. These are generally easier to look after, although from time to time they may need to be removed and given a quick clean. As with live plants, use taller artificial plants to provide a back-drop to the aquarium, with smaller ones in the foreground. They can also be used to create hiding places for fish, where they can escape from view.

With all décor and aquarium substrate, purchase it from an aquatics outlet to ensure it is safe. Avoid materials that affect water chemistry (e.g. calciferous rocks), unless it’s on the advice of your aquatics outlet.
What else you will need

Before you can set your aquarium up, you will also need to ensure you have the following:

- Aquarium thermometer, to check the temperature.
- Bottle of Tetra AquaSafe (included with AquaArt aquariums), to make the tap water safe.
- Depending on the aquarium, it may need to rest on some polystyrene tiles or a cork base (not necessary for Tetra AquaArt aquariums).
- Bottle of Tetra SafeStart, to add bacteria to the filter.
- Selection of live plants, unless you are opting for artificial ones.
- A good quality diet for the fish, e.g. TetraMin (included with AquaArt aquariums).
Getting started

Having chosen your equipment, substrate and décor, and found a suitable location, you can now get started on setting up your aquarium:

1 Substrate

Wash the substrate thoroughly under running water, to remove any dust. If you are going to have live plants, lay a 2cm (0.75in) layer of TetraPlant CompleteSubstrate on the base of the aquarium, before adding the substrate. Cover with a 3-5cm (1.25-2in) layer of pea gravel. If you do not use CompleteSubstrate, the depth of gravel needs to be 5-7cm (2-3in) for live plants. If you are not having live plants, cover the base of the aquarium with a 1-2cm (0.5-1in) layer of your chosen substrate.

2 Equipment and décor

Position the filter, heater, light and (if present) air pump according to the instruction manuals. Give your chosen décor a good wash, and then arrange this according to your own design. Try to use them to conceal the equipment, and don’t forget to provide hiding places for the fish.

3 Water

Prepare your aquarium water by filling a large plastic bucket from the tap, and then warming it to 24-25°C using water from the kettle. Do not use water from the hot tap. You can check the temperature using your aquarium thermometer. Then, add Tetra AquaSafe to the water to neutralise harmful chlorines and heavy metals.

Lay a plate or saucer on the gravel, and then pour the prepared water onto it. This will avoid disturbing the substrate as the aquarium is filled. Only fill the aquarium half-way at this stage.

4 Plants

Before positioning the plants, trim back their roots and remove any damaged leaves. If they came in
a pot, remove this and any rockwool it contains. Then carefully push the base of the plants into the substrate, using your finger to move the gravel aside. Back-fill the gravel, and gently pull the plant up until its growing tip is just above the substrate. For larger plants, or all plants if you haven’t used TetraPlant CompleteSubstrate, push some TetraPlant Crypto tablets into the substrate to provide them with the nutrients they need for healthy growth. You can now finish filling the aquarium.

For more information on aquarium plants and planting, see our Aquarium Plants brochure.

5 Settling-in phase

It is a good idea to fill the aquarium and leave it standing for 24 hours, to check there are no leaks prior to putting it in its final position. Although the quality of modern aquariums is excellent, there is always a very small chance of damage occurring during transport.

Once the aquarium is full, you should switch on all of the equipment to check it is working properly. It is important to leave the aquarium running empty for at least a few days, to allow the temperature to stabilise, the plants to establish, and to let the water settle down. During this time, switch the light on for 10-12 hours each day, to ensure the plants can photosynthesise.
Stocking your new aquarium

A common mistake made by new aquarium owners is to add the fish too quickly. When first set up, the filter does not contain any of the beneficial bacteria that convert toxic ammonia into nitrate. If too many fish are added at once, ammonia levels therefore rise causing the fish to become unwell. This is often called ‘New Tank Syndrome’, and is characterised by high ammonia and nitrite levels in the aquarium water.

There are two ways to avoid New Tank Syndrome, and ensure your aquarium gets off to a healthy start:

**METHOD 1**

**Traditional stocking procedure**

This approach depends on stocking the aquarium slowly, to avoid dangerous peaks in ammonia or nitrite.

1. Having allowed the aquarium to settle for one week, begin by adding a few small fish.
2. Using **TetraTest liquid kits**, check the ammonia and nitrite level every 2-3 days.
3. If ammonia or nitrite levels are too high according to the kits, perform a partial water change (using tap water treated with **Tetra AquaSafe**) to help dilute them.
4. Ammonia will rise initially, followed by nitrite, and finally both will return to zero. At this point, add a few more fish and repeat the process of testing the water regularly.
5. Only add a small number of new fish at a time, and only when ammonia and nitrite levels are zero.

As the number of fish increases, the length of time taken for ammonia and nitrite levels to fall will shorten.

When adding new fish, it is advisable to use **Tetra SafeStart**. This adds filter bacteria to the aquarium, dramatically reducing the time taken for ammonia and nitrite to be brought under control.
METHOD 2
Using TetraAqua SafeStart

Tetra SafeStart is a unique, patented blend of the bacteria responsible for nitrification in aquariums (Nitrosomonas, Nitrosospira, Nitrospira). Its use allows the safe introduction of fish into the aquarium, without the need to stock slowly over weeks or months.

1. Having allowed the aquarium to settle for one week, add 5ml of Tetra SafeStart per 6 litres of aquarium water. On the same day, introduce the fish to the aquarium. Do not exceed the rule of 1cm of fully grown fish per litre of water. This may only equate to 0.25-0.5cm of fish added at this stage, to give them space to grow.

2. Monitor ammonia and nitrite levels carefully using TetraTest liquid kits. Perform a partial water change if levels become dangerous (using water conditioned with Tetra AquaSafe). Levels of ammonia or nitrite should fall to zero within a week or two, confirming that the aquarium is fully operational.

It is not uncommon for new aquariums to experience cloudy water, caused by a bloom of micro-organisms. Once the aquarium and filter settle down, this will clear. Provided you are monitoring ammonia and nitrite, this cloudiness is not harmful to the fish.
Choosing and introducing fish

When choosing fish you need to consider whether or not your aquarium provides a suitable home for them. Find out as much as you can about their requirements, including what size they grow to; the food they need; and whether they need to be kept in shoals. Your aquatics outlet can help you with this.

When buying fish, make sure they generally look healthy and active, with no obvious signs of injury or disease. However, avoid the temptation to pick individual fish from a large shoal. The process of catching the fish is stressful for them if prolonged, and may mean you end up with a fish that is not in top condition. The staff in your aquatics outlet will be able to select good quality fish for you.

Transporting fish home

The aquatics outlet will place your new fish in a sealed bag, sometimes with added oxygen. Don’t be alarmed by the apparent lack of water in the bag – it is far better for the fish to have less water and more air/oxygen, as this creates a healthier environment.

During the journey home, keep the bag in the dark, and away from direct sunlight or excessive heat. Take your fish home as quickly as possible, as the process of being transported is quite stressful if prolonged unnecessarily.

Introducing fish to the aquarium

When you get your fish home, keep the bag sealed and float it in the aquarium for 10 minutes to allow the temperature to equalise with the rest of the water. Turn the aquarium lights off during this process. Then, open the bag and roll the sides down. Over a period of thirty minutes, slowly top the bag up with water from the aquarium. This helps your new fish get used to the chemistry of the water. Once this is done, carefully net the fish out of the bag and release them. If possible, avoid pouring the water from the bag into the aquarium, as by this stage it will be quite polluted. Leave the lights off until the next day.

Your new fish may hide for a day or two until they feel secure.
Having plenty of cover will help them to settle quickly. Offer a small amount of food at the same place each day, to encourage them to feed. Remove any that is uneaten, and avoid feeding on the first day they are introduced.

It is beneficial to add **TetraAqua AquaSafe** to the aquarium when you add fish, as it supports their natural ability to cope with stress.

**Some questions to ask before buying a fish**

- How big will it grow?
- What does it eat?
- Is it a peaceful community fish?
- Does it need to be in a shoal?
- Does it have any special water quality requirements?
Types of fish

There are many hundreds of fish available through the aquatics trade, and it would be impossible to mention them all here. The following is a brief description of some of the most common groups, although you should always find out the requirements of individual species before buying them.

**Tetras**
A large group of fish, containing a huge range of species. Although some varieties of tetra originate in Africa, the majority of those that are seen for sale are South American. They are popular aquarium fish and most are suitable for community aquariums, as they tend to be small and non-aggressive. The most popular species include the Neon tetra, Cardinal tetra, Black widow tetra, Lemon tetra, Red-eye tetra, and Serpae tetra. They are shoaling species and need to be kept in groups.

**Barbs**
Another large group of fish, with the majority of aquarium species coming from Asia. Although the majority of those seen for sale are small,
peaceful species, there are a few that can grow large and be quite boisterous. Therefore, it is important to ask about a species before purchase. The majority of barbs prefer to be in shoals, with popular varieties including the Ruby barb, Rosy barb, Pentazona barb, Golden barb and Checker barb.

**Rainbowfish**
In recent years, rainbowfish have become more popular for community aquariums. This is due to their relative ease of maintenance and their impressive colours. Rainbowfish originate from Asia and Australia, and prefer to be kept in a shoal. Although there are one or two small species, most grow to a reasonable size and therefore need plenty of room. Popular species include the Red rainbow, Praecox rainbow and Boesemani rainbow.

**Catfish**
There are many different species of catfish, coming from all over the world. Many of them are predatory or aggressive, and therefore unsuitable for a community aquarium, so it is important to choose carefully and responsibly.
seek advice. Many species of catfish prefer to remain on the substrate, and may only come out at night to begin with. However, with the correct care and feeding they will soon be tempted out. In addition, some shoal whilst others remain solitary, so doing some background research is important. Popular community species include Corydoras species, Bristlenose plecostomus (“sucker-mouth” catfish), Glass catfish, Flagtail catfish, and Whiptail catfish.

**Livebearers**

These fish are notable for their ability to give birth to live young, rather than laying eggs like most other fish. When kept in home aquaria, it is not unusual for livebearers to reproduce rapidly. The majority of commonly available livebearers prefer to be kept in groups, and there are many different colour varieties of most species. The most commonly kept livebearers are Guppies, Mollies, Platies and Swordtails, all of which are suitable for community aquaria.
**Gouramis**

Slightly larger than most other community fish, gouramis make good additions to the community aquarium. They usually prefer to be kept in small groups, and are on the whole peaceful. They are characterised by their ability to breathe atmospheric air, through the use of a specially modified organ in the top of their gill chamber. Popular varieties include the Opaline gourami, Gold gourami, Pearl gourami and Dwarf gourami.

**Loach**

Loach are another large group of fish, most species of which prefer to spend their lives on the bottom of the aquarium, searching through the substrate for food. Most are very active, but some can be quite secretive and may hide away until feeding time. They vary in their temperament and so you should ask about any species that you are interested in. Commonly kept varieties include the Clown loach, Horse-faced loach, Kuhli loach, and Orange-finned loach.
Feeding your fish

To remain healthy, your fish need to be fed a good quality diet. This is important, as food quality affects the strength of their immune system, how much waste they produce, and ultimately how quickly the aquarium becomes dirty.

Although you should check each new fish’s dietary requirements, most require feeding 2-3 times a day, with only as much as they can consume within a few minutes.

**TetraMin**

*TetraMin* is the world’s best selling tropical fish food, and is suitable for a wide range of commonly kept species. It contains everything fish need for a balanced, healthy diet, and will result in minimal waste production. It can be used as the main part of your fishes’ diet.

*TetraMin* is available in two formats – *Flakes and Crisps*. Crisps offer an even more advanced diet, as they are produced using Tetra’s patented low-temperature extrusion process. This helps to preserve vitamins and improve digestibility.

**TetraPro**

An advanced range of Crisp foods, for the very best performance possible. *TetraPro* should be used as an alternative to *TetraMin*. *TetraPro* is available in three varieties:

- **TetraPro with Energy Crisps**, for growth, health and vitality.
- **TetraPro Colour with Colour Crisps** for improved colouration.
- **TetraPro Vegetable with Vegetable Crisps** for improved health, and for species with more herbivorous feeding requirements.

*TetraPro* foods result in cleaner water, healthier fish, plus they deliver a specific concentrated benefit.
TetraPrima
Many fish prefer to feed in mid-water or on the substrate, and therefore need a sinking food. TetraPrima and TetraPrima MiniGranules provide a slow-sinking diet for these fish, which include Angelfish, Clown Loach, certain barbs, tetras, and Corydoras catfish.

Tetra tablet and wafer foods
Fish that feed exclusively from the substrate, especially those that are timid or nocturnal, require a wafer or tablet food. This ensures they receive sufficient nutrition, and keeps them healthy. Tetra TabiMin and Tetra Variety Wafers are ideal for these species. Herbivore formulas (PlecoMin and PlecoWafers) are available for herbivorous substrate feeders (e.g. Plecostomus catfish).

Treat foods
Like many animals, fish enjoy some variety in their diet. This can be provided with Tetra FreshDelica, which consists of fresh, natural foods in a nutrient-enriched gel. Unlike frozen or live foods, there is no need to store FreshDelica in the fridge/freezer. Feed FreshDelica 2-3 times a week in addition to your fishes’ normal food.

For more information on feeding your fish, see our ‘Feeding your Tropical Fish’ brochure.