

How to Setup a Freshwater Aquarium



Before You Start

- Purchase the largest size tank that will fit into the area that you would like to place the tank. We recommend a minimum of 20 gallons, the larger the tank the more diluted any changes in water quality and temperature will be.
- Place the aquarium on a solid stand that is made to support the weight of the aquarium.
- The aquarium should be placed in an area that will not have direct sunlight shining on it. This will help to control algae as well as minimize changes in water temperature.

Setup

1. Place the aquarium on the stand and wipe down the glass on the inside of the tank with a damp rag.
2. Place the background on the outside of the tank. Backgrounds will help to hide the wires of the filter and heater, as well as add depth to the aquarium and give a backdrop to any decorations in the tank.
3. Rinse the gravel to remove any small debris or dust.
4. Place the gravel in the bottom of the tank.
5. Place a dinner plate upside down on the gravel and pour the water onto the plate to avoid displacing the gravel. Fill up the aquarium, using lukewarm water approximately 25% full.
6. Place any decorations in the tank. Decorations and plants will give the fish places to hide and feel secure which will lower the stress level of the fish leading to healthier fish.
7. Continue to fill the tank, using lukewarm water slowly until the tank is approximately 90% full
8. Set the heater to the desired (76-79F for most community tanks) temperature and place your heater in the tank making sure it is firmly secured to the glass (do not plug in yet) and on the opposite side of the aquarium place your thermometer.
9. Rinse the filter media.
10. Place your filter media in you filter and then place your filter on the aquarium.
11. Finish filling up the aquarium.
12. Fill the filter with water and then plug in your filter and heater.
13. Add a de-chlorinator (such as AquaPlus).
14. Add a *couple* of hardy fish to the aquarium following our fish acclimation guide to allow the nitrogen cycle in the aquarium to commence adding a biological additive (such as Cycle). You should then wait approximately 7-14 days before adding more fish.

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Shopping List

- Aquarium
- Stand
- Filter
- Heater
- Air Pump, Air hosing and Bubbler
- Background
- Decorations
- Gravel
- Plants
- Test Kit
- Fish Foods
- De-Chlorinator (such as AquaPlus)
- Biological additive (such as Cycle)