

**Aquarium Care Made Easy!**

# **AQUARIUM CARE MADE EASY**

## **SELECTED TIPS - 105 PAGES!**



**105 Pages!**

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## Can You Handle A Saltwater Aquarium?

Having a salt water aquarium can be a lot of fun. There are many benefits to having it around including the wide range of fish that you can stock it with and call your own. Yet, you can also find that there are some down sides to having this type of aquarium too. It is essential that you take the time to compare these options before you choose whether or not you should go with a salt water aquarium or with a freshwater aquarium.

A freshwater aquarium is easier for most to maintain because it is easier to keep clean. A saltwater aquarium will be harder to clean but it will be able to be stocked with a larger amount of variety in the fish and creatures that you can put into it. A freshwater tank will be less expensive as will the fish that you stock it with. But, again, there is more variety offered in the salt water version. And, you can even create your own living ocean in your salt water aquarium because you can put in a wide range of other sea life animals that are not fish.

You will need to do more work and invest more money into a salt water tank. You will also need to commit more time to keeping it up and running. You should realize, though, that there are many rewards offered to you in this type of tank. It will allow you to create a whole new world in your home and it can even teach children about the life under the sea. Take your time to consider your choice. Take a look at the types of fish that you would love to have in your salt water aquarium and decide if you can indeed provide for them the type of environment that they need to survive in.

## Choosing Fish For Your Saltwater Aquarium

Once you decide to go with a salt water aquarium, your next task will be to choose the types of fish that you would like to stock within it. Now, you should not head out and purchase an aquarium just yet. First, you need to carefully consider your fish choices. There are thousands of species but not all of them are ideal for an aquarium like setting. And, many of them are better left to the ocean. Yet, you can not get your aquarium before you know what fish you are putting it in for one main reason. That is of course the size.

Depending on the amount of fish and their needs for space, this is what will determine just how large the salt water aquarium you choose will be. It is important to take your time in choosing these fish. If you are a beginner aquarium owner, take your time to make the right choices. You may want to choose fish that are easy to take care of including clownfish, damselfish and mollies. Then, you can add things like triggerfish, grammas and tangs. One thing to really consider before you purchase are the more unique choice such as angelfish, anemones, seahorses and even clams. These are much more difficult to take care of and are often something a beginner will struggle with.

You should also consider other elements about the fish that you plan to stock in your salt water tank. You should note just how well the various species will interact with each other. You should also know which ones are more aggressive. Finally, you should make sure that they all tolerate the same living conditions especially when it comes to the water's temperature, the salinity levels and the pH levels of the tank. These things are a must when choosing the species of fish to stock in your salt water fish tank.

## Purchasing Your Saltwater Aquarium

When it comes to purchasing your salt water aquarium, there are several things that you will want to consider. First off, you should take your time to consider the types of fish that you would like to own. Remember that it is necessary to insure that these creatures can actually get along together well and that their water needs that they have all match well. Once you know what fish you plan to stock, you can take a look at the various options you have in the tanks you can purchase.

You should consider the size of the tank first. The larger the tank is, the more room the fish will have to swim and live. This will allow them to do the best that they can. But, the larger the fish tank is, the more work it will take you to keep it clean as well as at the right levels for the fish. Most individuals that purchase a salt water aquarium will do so at the level of a 30 to 55 gallon size. Remember to talk to your pet store clerk about the amounts of room your fish need to have.

You should also heavily consider purchasing acrylic for your tank. It is stronger as well as easier to maintain. And, you will be able to see better through it. You should then consider where you plan to house your aquarium. The larger it is the stronger the table or place will need to be. Remember to consider the weight of the tank full of water. Another thing to consider is having a reef tank instead of a fish tank. If you will have enough room and the price is right, these can provide you with more detail and more beauty in your fish tank. You can even purchase a kit that comes prepackaged with all of the things that you need to get your fish tank up and running. Insure that these are all the right elements for your needs though.

## Filling Your Saltwater Aquarium

You have taken the time to carefully purchasing the right salt water aquarium and you have taken the time to choose the right fish to put into it. There are many things that you need to do in order to get your tank full of the fish that you really would like to have in it. It does not have to be too hard for you to do this, but you should realize that it is necessary to fill your tank slowly and give your fish the best opportunity that you can for them to survive and thrive in your salt water aquarium.

First, start with healthy fish. Take a look at them. Do they look healthy? Are they swimming around the tanks at the pet store easily? Is the water in the tank clean? You should be able to trust your pet store salesmen. If you do not think that they know what they are talking about, head someplace else. Some of these fish can be expensive! Do not purchase fish that are not healthy for your tank.

Next, remember to only add fish one or two at a time. You should insure that the right levels are met in your tank before you add the fish to it. You should insure that the pH level, the salinity level and the water temperature are right for the fish that you have chosen. You should realize that fish do not like the change either. You need to let them adapt to their new environment before you add many fish to the aquarium. Adding just a few fish every few days is the best thing for you to do.

Once you have your fish in the tank, make sure to feed them properly. To do this, you will want to make sure that you know what the fish like to eat as well as how often they need to. As a general rule, feed your fish every three days, keep them in water that is about 75 to 80 degrees and give them a variety of foods including cut up pieces of shrimp and romaine lettuce.

## Maintaining Your Saltwater Aquarium

You are enjoying your fish in your salt water aquarium. You have done all that you can to provide you new little friends with a great home to live in. Now, you need to maintain it. Remember, maintaining the tank is essential to keeping your fish alive. There are several things that you will need to do in order to keep your fish happy and healthy.

The first thing you need to do is to remember to check the water of the tank every two weeks. You need to check for the right levels of ammonia, nitrate, nitrite, pH and salinity. You should know what these levels are based on what your fish needed when you purchased them. You can find the chemicals that you need to adjust these levels at the pet store too.

Monitor the salinity of the water. Usually, it will be too high. To balance it out, add fresh dechlorinated water to the tank. You will need to add salt to the water if the salinity levels are too low. You should remove just about ten percent of the water from your tank each week and replace it with fresh dechlorinated water. Every several weeks, take out 25% of the tank's water and replace it.

Finally, taking care of your salt water aquarium includes keeping it nice and clean for your fish. You should monitor the amounts of algae in it and insure that you keep the sides, top and the interior of the tank algae free. You should check the filter pads and check the alkalinity as directed by the manufacturer. You will need to clean out the debris in the water and in the gravel as well. Taking care of your salt water aquarium is necessary if you plan to keep it a safe place for your fish. But, you can do this quite simply by knowing what needs to be done and making it a habit. Then, it is less of a chore and it becomes something that you look forward to.

## Aquarium And Fish Care Choices

Members of the family Characidae share many characteristics with other freshwater fish. They are a member of the Ostariophysi super order, which includes around 68% of all freshwater species in the world. This super order is characterized by the Weberian apparatus and some sort of alarm substance that is released when the fish is stressed. Family Characidae were originally discovered in South and Central America, but have also been found in central Africa. There are two main variations of Characidae: carnivorous and omnivorous. The omnivorous kinds will eat both vegetable matter and meat, while the carnivorous only eat meats. While there are also herbivorous Characidae, you should probably avoid keeping them, because they will eat literally every plant in your aquarium.

When choosing to keep carnivorous Characidae, there are some things you will want to keep in mind. First and foremost, be aware that anything smaller than the Characidae will be considered food. And mixing other aggressive carnivores will only lead to one or the other being eaten. You will want to keep herbivorous fish that are much larger with Characidae. They will generally leave anything bigger than themselves alone, and the herbivore will not be interested in attacking unless provoked. In contrast to the piranha, which has similar jaws and eating habits, a Characidae will attack both alone and in schools. Piranhas tend to attack only in schools. But the effect either type can have on your hand is similar, so be careful. These kinds of fish are definitely not recommended for the beginner.

Carnivorous Characidae will eat pretty much any kind of meat. Worms, smaller fish (a lot of dangerous fish keepers will stock the aquarium with several small, cheap fish so the predator has something to hunt), etc. Try to avoid giving them a taste for red meat, and do not put your hands into the tank while feeding them.

Characidae live in the brackish waters of South and Central American rivers. Lots of peat and vegetable matter contribute to hazy waters and a PH leaning towards acidic. When properly kept, Characidae will breed in captivity, leaving eggs that stick to the bottom of the aquarium. They will eat their young however, so if you are going to attempt to breed Characidae be prepared to move either the adults or the young into a separate aquarium right after hatching.

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Serrasalmus Rhombeus, also known as white piranha or spotted piranha, are another favorite of people who like to keep dangerous fish. Like Characidae, piranhas are from South America, in the Amazon Basin. They can grow up to 10 inches long in the wild, but most aquarium-raised piranha only grows to around 6 inches. As with Characidae, piranhas are not for the beginner. As one of the most aggressive fishes, they cannot be kept with other fish. Their most prominent feature is the over-sized jaw, with rows of needle-sharp teeth. Piranhas have been known to tear apart aquariums with those teeth. When netting a piranha, you must use extreme caution to keep your hands away from the fish at all times. They will attack and shred your hand without hesitation if you let them. In the wild, a school of piranha can reduce an entire cow to bones in a matter of seconds, so your hand is just a little snack for them.

Piranhas eat meat, of course. They will attack and eat any other fish they are kept with. Some of the nicer things about keeping piranha include their relative indifference to water conditions, and that they will not breed in a tank. This prevents schools of piranha from appearing in your tanks. They will eat each other in captivity, especially if there are no other fish to attack. Piranhas are extremely aggressive and dangerous, and should only be kept by experienced keepers.

## Aquarium And Fish Care Support

As a beginner first learning the ins and outs of keeping an aquarium healthy, things can get a bit overwhelming. There is so much terminology and equipment; it is enough to make anyone's head spin. Learning it all a piece at a time is recommended. Patience is key in many things relating to keeping aquariums. A fish often recommended to beginners is the goldfish.

Commonly available, and quite pretty when healthy, the goldfish is one of the easier fish to keep healthy and happy. Be prepared to do some reading, however. There are terms and procedures to become familiar with.

The aquarium is absolutely critical to being able to keep healthy fish, no matter what kind of fish it is. Proper care and maintenance of your aquarium is necessary, and there are daily and weekly procedures that must be followed. The first step in keeping a goldfish is choosing the aquarium. While you may see goldfish in bowls and other small containers on television and even in real life, this is really a bad idea. While a goldfish can live for a while in a small bowl like that, they will never really thrive, and will be more susceptible to disease and death. A 10 gallon minimum aquarium with filtration should be the minimum you consider for keeping a goldfish. The filter running into the aquarium agitates the surface of the water and provides more oxygen to the water, which in turn means the fish has plenty of oxygen and is healthier. More room to swim, and even some currents from the filtration, make sure that the goldfish stays happy and in shape. Don't forget to take the number of goldfish into account! More than one goldfish will require more space.

Ask the guys at your local pet store or aquarium shop (recommended) what they recommend. Don't buy too much tank at first though. Try to keep it small and simple. Tell them how many fish you intend to keep, and whether you would like to add fish later. Always do some research before buying a product you are not familiar with. There are a ton of accessories and products associated with aquariums and fish. Doing some research beforehand can keep you from buying products you don't need.

Unless you have access to well water, your tap water probably contains chlorine or ammonia. These substances are very harmful to your goldfish, and can even kill them if you have particularly chlorinated water. There are products available that you simply mix thoroughly into

## Aquarium Care Made Easy

your tap water after filling the aquarium. They usually remove chlorine as well as adding things to the water to help your fish form its slime coat and fight off ick (a small parasite that is extremely common on fish that are stressed). If you would rather use distilled or reverse osmosis purified water, there are other additives that restore needed minerals into these too-pure waters.

Make sure you check the filters once a week, and rinse them out with dechlorinated water of some type. It is okay to use distilled water for this. It is common to get snails living on your filters. Try not to crush them, and remove them during your weekly cleaning. It is not recommended that you put these types of snails back into your aquarium, because they tend to over-breed and eat every bit of plant matter in your aquarium.

It is also necessary to keep the aquarium at a fairly constant temperature. An aquarium heater can be used to control the water temperature with some precision. You should also have an aquarium thermometer to verify the water temperature.

## Freshwater Aquarium Fish

Aquariums can be beautiful, but expensive and complicated to maintain. For the beginner, it is highly recommended that you go with freshwater aquariums and fish. While both saltwater and freshwater aquariums require some setup and maintenance, freshwater aquariums are by far the cheaper and easier of the two. All you really need to start with freshwater is a tank, some gravel and/or rocks, light, filter, heater, and thermometer. Fill it with water, let it sit for a few weeks to get a biological filter cycle going, and you are good to go for freshwater fish. And if you choose well, freshwater fish can be just as bright and colorful as their saltwater counterparts.

### **Which Fish Should I Get?**

Probably the most common question a freshwater aquarium keeper asks is "Which kind of freshwater aquarium fish should I get?". Freshwater fish come in all shapes, sizes, and colors. Some can be kept with others, some can't. Probably the best way to decide is to look around at your local aquarium shop and see what catches your eye. If you don't see anything you like, the shopkeeper will likely be able to help you in ordering the ones you want. And be sure and find out whether the different species of fish you are considering keeping together are compatible.

Some common choices for beginning freshwater aquariums keepers are cichlids of various types and rainbow fish. Cichlids come in all sorts of colors, and can grow to be quite large (3 feet or so) in the wild. Rainbow fish are from Australia and are usually multicolored and quite pretty. If you want a small fish to round out your tank, a school of 4-5 Neons can fill the role nicely. They never get bigger than large minnow sized, and have almost fluorescent stripes on otherwise clear bodies.

### **Care and Maintenance**

With all of these fish, you will need to pay attention to your water PH, which is a measure of how acidic or alkaline it is. Various fish have different comfort levels, and some fish, like the Discus, can actually die if the PH is not precisely maintained.

Watch your temperature, and make sure it is warm or cool enough. A lot of the more colorful freshwater fish come from tropical freshwater, and require warm water to be healthy and happy.

## **Fish Care And Aquarium Support**

1. **Know Your Fish:** the care of your fish is determined largely by what type of fish they are i.e. saltwater or freshwater. The first kind is also referred to as marine fish. The kind of water-home you provide for your fish friends depends on the category they fall under as saltwater fish need to be looked in at daily to check for their good health in an alien environment and this is why experts recommend fish-owners to observe the patterns of behavior of every fish in the tank so anything out of the ordinary can be recorded and attended to by a pet specialist.

2. **Learn about the eating pattern of your fish** to fix a daily routine for them as some fish may require frequent meals while others can do with just one meal daily; it is important to understand and interpret the eating demands of your fish.

3. **Try and keep the aquarium water clean** as neglecting this aspect may cause chlorine build-up in the tank, leading to unhygienic conditions for the fish in it. You can invest in some affordable water-filters to maintain aquarium water and find out about adding calcium in it besides adding iodine salt twice weekly for marine fish kept in a tank. Clearing the aquarium of algae buildup that contains photosynthetic substances is essential too for the healthy upkeep of your fish.

4. **Another tip for maintaining tank water of the best quality is to filter out** at least 15 per cent of it contained in the tank on a weekly basis and refill this quantity with pure, oxygenated water to prevent build-up of chemicals that can be harmful for the fish. Don't hesitate to seek advice from the local pet shop on the ways to eliminate chemical build-up in your tank water and the type of filtration system you can use to benefit your fishy friends.

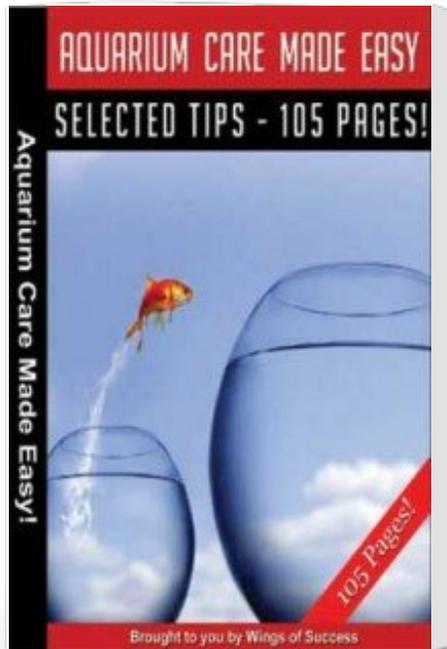
5. **Always work to remove debris such as gravel** etc. from the tank before attempting to clean and change the water. Check for any impurities such as ammonia content etc. in the aquarium water by investing in a tester kit and buffer system easily available in the market and use this every 2 weeks to spot harmful levels of other chemicals, such as copper, chlorine and nitrate build-up etc. and to check the pH level of the tank water. However, do remember that fish tend to produce their own level of nitrites, which are not harmful for them and only concentrate on removing the nitrous acidic salts that can be toxic for them. When doing these weekly tests,

add in the useful alkalinity build up test on a monthly basis also to judge the concentration of it in terms with the pH level of the tank water.

6. ***Investing in a good quality chemical, mechanical or biological filter*** that your local pet shop can guide you about is a smart way to prevent fish from falling ill when kept in an aquarium environment and checking to see these are working properly is also important as a bi-weekly filter-check can tell you when a replacement is due.

Keeping your fish records updated and your aquarium clean is essential for fishy friends to breathe easy - click online for more details!

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