

# MARINA<sup>®</sup>

AQUARIUM



## Care Guide

## The choices: creating an aquarium

**There are many hundreds of fish species available for your first aquarium, but before you choose the fish, you need to make one fundamental decision - what kind of environment will your aquarium provide?**

Keeping fish requires a bit of planning. You will have to decide on the kind of aquarium you want some time before you acquire your first fish - but don't worry, your patience will be rewarded with a successful, healthy, visually impressive display.

Creating and maintaining the perfect environment for your fish can be easy, as long as a few basic principles are followed. Don't try to rush or miss out any stages, it could be detrimental to your new fish.

### COLDWATER

Coldwater fish can live in unheated tanks. They are, therefore, less expensive to keep, and yet still provide a bright, attractive display. Coldwater fish have always been popular with the experts, but they are also ideal for children and beginners.



### TROPICAL

A heated freshwater tropical aquarium can be maintained with the minimum of effort or expense. A warm water environment allows you to choose from a wide variety of colourful and exotic fish.

*Marine fish require special care and conditions and are not suitable for the beginner.*

# Contents

## Setting up your first tank

the right equipment	page 4
choosing the right place	6
adding decorations	7
placing electrical items	8
de-chlorinating tapwater	9
adding essential bacteria	10
introducing the first fish	11

## All about fish

choosing your new fish	page 12
feeding the correct diet	13
fish healthcare	14
looking after poorly fish	15

## All about water

filtration for beginners	page 16
the nitrogen cycle	18
new tank syndrome	19
testing the water	20
dealing with algae	21

## Care and maintenance

tips and advice	page 22
care calendar	24

## Setting up your first tank: The right equipment

### Why do I need this equipment?

**A clear, well-kept aquarium is a beautiful insight into the underwater world of fish. But that beauty is the result of a number of essential pieces of equipment, without which your fish will not thrive, and your aquarium will always be lacklustre and murky.**



### aquarium

Aquariums can be made of glass or acrylic and come in many shapes, sizes and dimensions. **Marina Aquariums** are ideal for beginners, providing an opportunity to learn the basics of fishkeeping with just a few fish. In general, select the largest size aquarium you can manage and you will get a more stable environment and a greater choice of fish and plants.

### a sturdy base

A strong base is required to support even a small aquarium which will be extremely heavy when filled. It's vital to choose the right stand for your aquarium. Wrought iron and angle stands, together with hi-fi, video, TV cabinets, other articles of furniture and self assembly furniture are NOT suitable for use with aquariums.

### filter

The only way that waste products can be removed from the water in your aquarium is through filtration. **Marina Filters** provide efficient filtration to make sure your aquarium stays clear, clean and free from toxins, reducing the frequency of partial water changes.

*See pages 16-17*

### heater & thermometer

All fish are cold-blooded - which means their bodies are the same temperature as the water around them. A heater is required for tropical aquariums in order to keep the water at the right temperature, constantly. This is important as sudden changes can cause stress and disease. Use an easy-to-read **Marina LCD Thermometer** to keep on eye on it as well.

## lighting

Correct lighting is a must as it provides essential stimulation to fish and plants while enhancing the whole look of the aquarium. The aquarium must be lit for 8 to 12 hours a day, depending on whether you have live plants in the tank. *See page 21.*

**Glo Fluorescent Bulbs** are available for a range of specific uses, eg. **Aqua-Glo** intensifies the brilliant colours of fish and **Sun-Glo** recreates the spectrum of natural sunlight.

**Marina Incandescent Bulbs** add decorative lighting to your aquarium and come in a variety of tints. Remember to turn the light on and off at fixed times and replace the bulbs once a year.

## gravel and decorations

Buy only rocks, ornaments and gravel that have been specifically designed for use in an aquarium. There is a vast selection to choose from and you can make your aquarium truly unique by combining textures, shapes, colours and arrangements.

Before adding any decorative items to your aquarium, always rinse thoroughly. *Never use naturally calcareous sand.*



## test kits and water treatments

Ensure your water is perfect by using water treatments to remove and neutralise any chemicals in your tap water that may be harmless to humans, but deadly for fish.

**Nutrafin Aqua Plus** is specifically formulated to condition water before it is added to the tank, while **Nutrafin Cycle** helps 'mature' the water for your fish and maintains the aquarium's natural biological balance. At the start and once established, you will need to test your water regularly with

### **Nutrafin Test Kits.**

*See page 20.*



water treatments



## Setting up your first tank: choosing the right place

The right  
location is  
important



Always use the correct  
stand for aquariums.

### Remember:

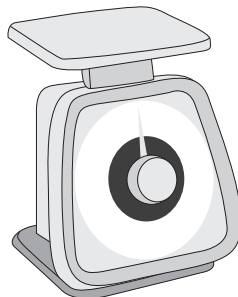
1 litre of water = 1 kg

1 U.S. gal. of water = 8.5 lb

**DO NOT ATTEMPT TO MOVE THE AQUARIUM WHEN FULL!**

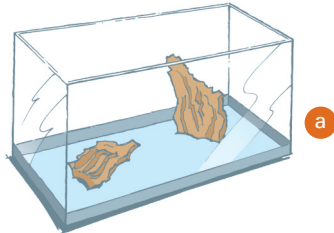
### Make sure the aquarium is positioned:

- **Away from** direct sunlight. If placed too close to a window, an aquarium can develop significant algae problems.
- **Away from** direct sources of heat, such as fires and radiators.
- **Away from** sources of sound, speakers, or TVs.
- **Away from** other furniture which may restrict your access to the aquarium lid for maintenance.
- **On a strong** level surface as any uneven support across the tank base can be disastrous! Do not place your Aquarium on wrought iron and angle iron stands, hi-fi, video, TV cabinets or other articles of furniture or self-assembly furniture.
- **Close to** electrical sockets to operate the filter and light. If you have a tropical aquarium you'll need a socket for the heater too. Leave about 6-7cm of space behind the tank to run wires.

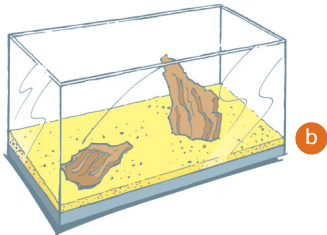


## Setting up your first tank: adding decorations

an aquarium  
is a living, breathing  
ornament

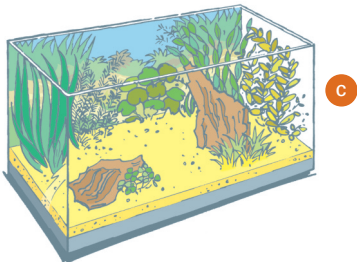


a



b

Sloping the gravel up to the rear of the aquarium gives an illusion of depth and helps waste matter to collect at the front where it is easier to remove.



c

**Only start this stage when you are absolutely sure of the final position of the aquarium. Once that decision has been made give some consideration to the style of your aquarium - you may want to incorporate colours or textures from the surrounding room.**

**To set up a basic arrangement of rocks and gravel:**

**Make sure** the tank itself is clean and dry before you start. Wash any gravel, rocks, wood or other items in running water.

**Place decorations** in the bottom of the tank, not too close to the glass sides.

**Add the gravel** to a depth of at least 2 inches. Make the gravel slope up from the front to the back wall to create a 'beach'.

**TAKE CARE!**  
Try to avoid  
banging the glass  
when positioning  
decorative  
rocks

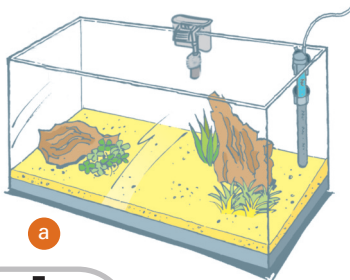
## adding style

**Backgrounds** can add an atmosphere to your tank and help to hide unsightly wires, cables and tubes.

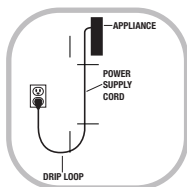
Create different moods with **Marina Backgrounds**. With fantastic background scenes and colours you can change the look of your aquarium in an instant. Made of waterproof plastic, they can be fixed to the outside back wall of the tank and any overlap can simply be cut off.

## Setting up your first tank: placing electrical items

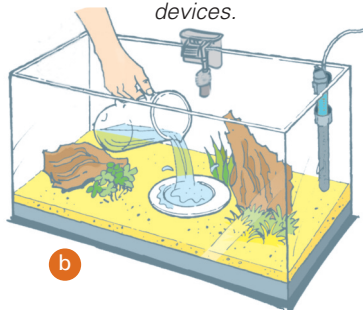
please follow safety codes



a



Make sure you allow enough electrical flex to create a drip loop. This prevents water dripping down the flex into the plugs or unprotected devices.



b

When you are filling or maintaining your aquarium it's a good idea to keep some basic equipment for aquarium use only:

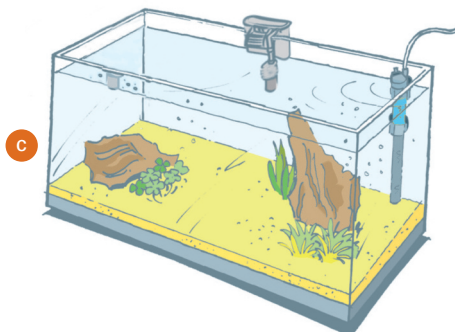
- Plastic bucket
- Water jug
- Old towels
- Plastic sheet

*NB. Never use containers which have ever been used with chemical cleaners!*

**Make sure electrical products are not plugged in until they are in the correct position. Never put your hands in the water when the devices are switched on. Carefully read the installation and maintenance instructions for each device.**

- a Place the** electrical equipment - pump, filter, heater\*. Don't plug them in yet. Make sure you have read and followed the instructions for each item.
- b Fill to half-full** with water. It is a good idea to place a small bowl on the gravel while filling to prevent gravel from washing away. Now's the time to add any plastic plants by bedding the weighted base into the gravel. Put large plants to the rear of the tank to give the effect of depth.
- c Once your** aquarium is fully planted finish filling the tank with water, dry your hands, then plug in and switch on the equipment.

(\*except for coldwater aquariums)



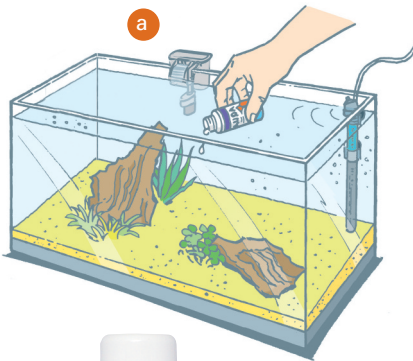
c

Once your aquarium is set up, ensure the equipment is working properly and make necessary water temperature\* and filter flow adjustments.



## Setting up your first tank: de-chlorinating tap water

water quality affects  
the health of fish



**Nutrafin Aqua Plus & Nutrafin Cycle** are different water treatments, each with vital roles to play in the health of water and the success of your new aquarium. They should always be included in your list of aquarium essentials and ongoing maintenance routine.

Your aquarium may look ready for fish but don't rush it; there are still one or two important things you need to do before adding any fish.

- a **Water straight from the tap** is not safe for fish until the chemicals put into it for human safety have been removed. Add a dose of **Nutrafin Aqua Plus** to instantly remove chlorine and chloramine and neutralise any heavy metals.

- **Nutrafin Aqua Plus** is more than a de-chlorinator. Fish can become stressed when moved or handled and this can damage the natural protective mucous which covers their body, leaving them vulnerable to disease. **Nutrafin Aqua Plus** also provides a temporary protective coating of calming herbal extracts until the natural mucous returns.

See  
page 14  
about fish  
healthcare



## Cloudy water?

find the solutions

see pages 18-19

## Setting up your first tank: adding essential bacteria

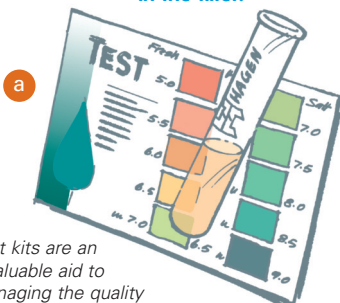
don't buy fish until  
the water is ready!



Nutrafin Cycle helps to build up healthy populations of good bacteria, reducing the impact of new tank syndrome and helping to prevent the loss of fish in the early stages.



**Tip:** Add a few flakes of Nutrafin Max fish food at the same time as the Nutrafin Cycle to let the bacteria feed and develop in the filter.



Test kits are an invaluable aid to managing the quality of your aquarium water. See page 20

Over a period of about 10 days the 'maturing' process begins when natural bacteria, beneficial to fish, start to coat all the interior surfaces inside the tank, including gravel, decorations, filter, filter foam and the tank walls.

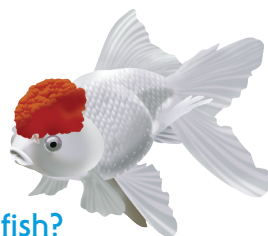
You can speed up this process with **Nutrafin Cycle**.

- **Add a dose of Nutrafin Cycle.** This is a densely concentrated solution of good bacteria which helps the aquarium to mature more quickly so you can start to add fish after 48 hours. If you don't add **Nutrafin Cycle**, leave the aquarium with its filter running for at least 2-3 weeks before introducing one or two hardy fish.
- a **Before you add fish**, use a **Nutrafin Test Kit** to check the levels of toxins like ammonia, to be on the safe side.
- **The new aquarium** is vulnerable to a condition known as New Tank Syndrome where levels of ammonia suddenly peak and the developing populations of bacteria are not established enough to control it. These unstable conditions can be extremely harmful to fish.

See page 19

## Why is 'New Tank Syndrome' so harmful to fish?

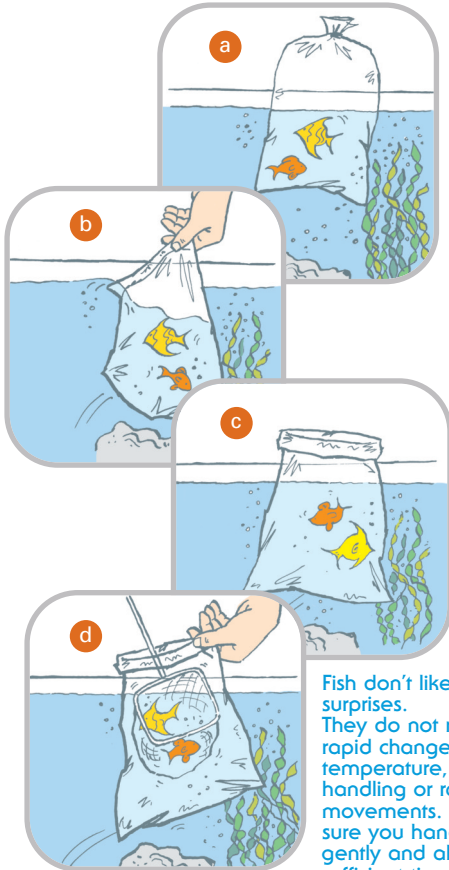
See page 19



## Setting up your first tank: introducing the first fish

start with just one or  
two hardy fish

When you buy fish they will be packaged in a plastic bag with water from their display tank. The bag is topped up with air and the bag is sealed. **Don't plan on doing any more shopping - take them straight home, trying not to bump the bag or jiggle it about too much!**



Fish don't like surprises. They do not react well to rapid changes in temperature, handling or rapid movements. Always make sure you handle them gently and allow them sufficient time to get used to new surroundings.

- a** **Switch off the aquarium light**, lift the lid and float the bag of fish in the aquarium for about 20 minutes to equalise the water temperature.
  - b** **Open the bag** and add a little of the aquarium water, about a third of the bag's volume.
  - c** **Wait 10 minutes** and repeat.
  - d** **Carefully remove the fish** with a net or tip the bag to allow them to swim out into the aquarium.
- **Leave them undisturbed** for a full 24 hours before giving any food. A partial water change should be performed every 2 days for the first 2 weeks. If everything goes well in the first few weeks, you can then add more fish.

When you are ready to buy some fish, ask your retailer to recommend some hardy first fish

## What is a partial water change?

See page 22

## All about fish: choosing your new fish

always buy new fish  
from a reputable  
retailer

*Some handy tips:*

Always start your new aquarium with just 1 or 2 hardy fish - your retailer will advise.

Introduce fish gradually over several weeks to allow the biological balance to stabilise.

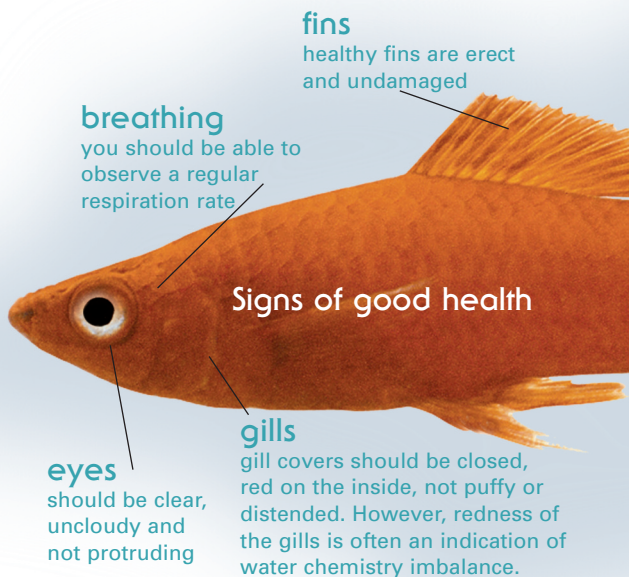
Fish that normally shoal in nature should be kept in groups in an aquarium.  
A solitary specimen may pine away, even in a crowded tank.

Fish are usually sold as juveniles. Check for their adult size - if they grow too big they may terrorise or prey on your other fish.

Different fish species inhabit different levels of an aquarium. Some may occupy the bottom of the tank while others prefer middle or upper levels. Stock your aquarium with a range of fish which will occupy all levels.

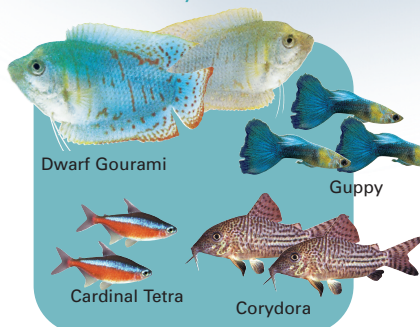


When buying fish, you are well advised to look closely at each specimen and check for health and vitality. Watch out for fish showing signs of abnormal behaviour such as lying at the bottom or swimming on their side. If you can see one fish that is visibly sick, don't buy any other fish from that tank.



### stocking levels

*Always allow space for fish to grow. Here are some suggested communities for first aquariums:*



**TROPICAL**

## All about fish: feeding the correct diet

good nutrition  
ensures health, vivid  
colour and liveliness

### colours

should be strong, although  
that may vary with age, sex  
and mood

### scales

should be flat and even with  
no missing or damaged areas -  
especially no red blotches or  
scales that stick out

### Feeding tips:

Make sure you know the feeding  
requirements of your fish.

Keep dry food away from  
moisture, especially wet hands.

Use a **Nutrafin Feeding Ring** to  
keep surface food under control.

Provide a varied diet - a minimum  
of two different types of food.

**Fish need careful, regular feeding with a variety of the right types of food in order to remain healthy and to thrive. Good nutrition will ensure your fish are colourful, lively, free from disease and able to reproduce.**

### How much food is enough?

As a rule of thumb, most surface feeders will eat all they need in about 2 minutes, two or three times daily. Bottom feeders take a little longer - about 5 minutes. Just a pinch of food is required.

**Nutrafin Max Fish Food** is a range of complete, balanced foods which have been specially produced using top quality ingredients containing essential nutrients, minerals and vitamins. It contains no artificial preservatives or additives. Importantly, **Nutrafin Max** is formulated to provide precisely the right amount of

Always  
remove any  
uneaten food  
with a net

phosphorus, helping  
to control algae, plus the  
lowest amount of ash. It is  
also highly digestible to  
reduce the amount of waste  
produced by the fish. **Less  
waste, less algae means  
less work for you!**



*Flakes for surface  
feeders, slow-sinking  
pellets or granules for  
mid-water feeders and  
tablets for bottom  
feeders. Nutrafin Max  
caters for the needs  
of different species.*



## All about fish: fish healthcare

### prevention is better than a cure

Most living organisms can suffer illness at one time or another. The most effective way to deal with this reality is to prevent, rather than wait for a possible problem.



Regular maintenance is key to the prevention of illness in fish

The consequences of having to treat a stocked aquarium with a medication can be stressful and damaging in itself. Many plants, fish and helpful bacteria can suffer as a result of using medication.



- **Choose only healthy fish**, avoid purchases from aquariums containing sick fish.
- **Purchase fish in limited groups**, slowly build fish populations.
- **Consider a quarantine aquarium.** This will allow observation and preventative treatments before exposing new fish to established aquarium inhabitants.
- **Follow proper acclimatisation** of new specimens. *See page 11*
- **Always condition new water** with **Nutrafin Aqua Plus** before adding to the aquarium. Chlorine, chloramine, and metals are damaging to aquarium inhabitants.
- **Perform basic water tests** and maintenance on a regular basis.
- **After power failures**, ensure that all equipment is working properly. Observe fish carefully, temperature variations will stress them.
- **Regular illumination periods** are important for fish and plants. Switch lights on and off at the same time every day or use an automatic timer.
- **If a medication has been used**, after the treatment is complete, perform additional water changes and use carbon filter media to remove residual traces. Test water and dose with **Nutrafin Cycle** and **Nutrafin Aqua Plus**. *(NB. Carbon should always be removed from the filter during medication and replaced only when treatment is complete).*
- **Feed regularly** with a variety of quality foods.
- **Nutrafin Max** provides complete nutrition.

All about fish:

## looking after poorly fish

spend time  
observing your fish

**You need to get to know your fish well if you are going to be able to spot disease or illness before it becomes untreatable, so spend time observing your fish, how they move and interact with their environment.**

If you see any variation, the first thing to do is to check water quality as it may be a sign of pollution or poor water conditions. If this is not the problem you will need to seek advice from an authority on fish - your local supplier for instance.

### Common fish diseases

#### White Spot (Ich) Disease

A common sickness that responds to treatment well, although it is best to treat the whole tank.

**Tailrot/Finrot** Look for torn, ragged or stuck-together fins. Treat at the early stage - if the rot reaches the body, cure is unlikely.

**Velvet Disease** Infected fish have a dusty look, the treatment is similar to White Spot.

**Skin/Gill Flukes** Watch for fish scratching themselves on rocks or plants, this nasty parasite causes colour to fade and fish to become feeble - they may rest near the surface. It responds well to treatment.

**Pox** White spots that join to form patches.

Fish become emaciated and twisted - often caused by poor condition and food.

**Fungus** Usually only attacks fish weakened by other poor conditions, disease or parasites. Healthy fish will not be affected.

**Mouth Fungus** Unlike body fungus, this requires specific treatment.

**Eye Infections** Cloudy, protruding eyes could be the sign of bacteria or parasites.

**Dropsy** Serious and difficult to cure, the fish's body can become so bloated that the scales protrude.

#### Fin and Tail Rot

Torn ragged fins, possibly stuck together



#### White Spot (Ich) Disease

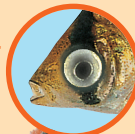
White spots



**SICK FISH MUST BE REMOVED AT ONCE OR HEALTHY FISH WILL BE AFFECTED TOO!**

#### Eye Cloud or Pop Eye

Protruding or cloudy eyes



#### Body Slime and Mouth Fungus

White viscous film on lips and mouth

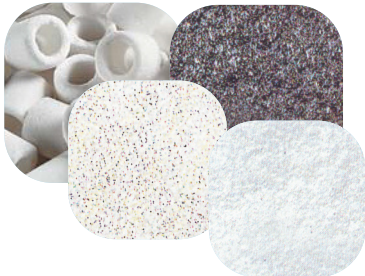


## All about water: filtration for beginners

### filtration is the key to life

**Clip-on filters are the best choice for beginners, providing excellent filtration and water flow, as well as being simple and easy to look after.**

**For a larger, more densely stocked aquarium, an external filter may be necessary.**



### What is media?

*Man-made aquarium filters come in all shapes and sizes, but most work on the same basic principle of using a pump to move the water through material called **filter media** where the cleaning takes place.*

*Media is produced in a variety of forms (pads, carbon granules or ceramic shapes, for instance) and a filter may contain one or all of these - but all are designed to clean water mechanically, biologically or chemically.*

**If you are a complete beginner to keeping fish then the wide variety of filters available can be puzzling. Marina filters are ideal for beginners but it is important to learn a little about what the filter does and why it has such a vital role to play in the upkeep of a healthy aquarium.**

- **In nature**, most fish exist in constantly changing water conditions- flowing rivers, large ponds, lakes and estuaries. In the natural world, a small static body of water could not support the concentration and variety of life found in even the most modest aquarium. The key to life in such an artificial environment is filtration. Filtration removes waste products from the water, and circulates clean water back into the aquarium. *If wastes are not removed regularly, the chemical imbalance of the water could prove fatal to fish.*

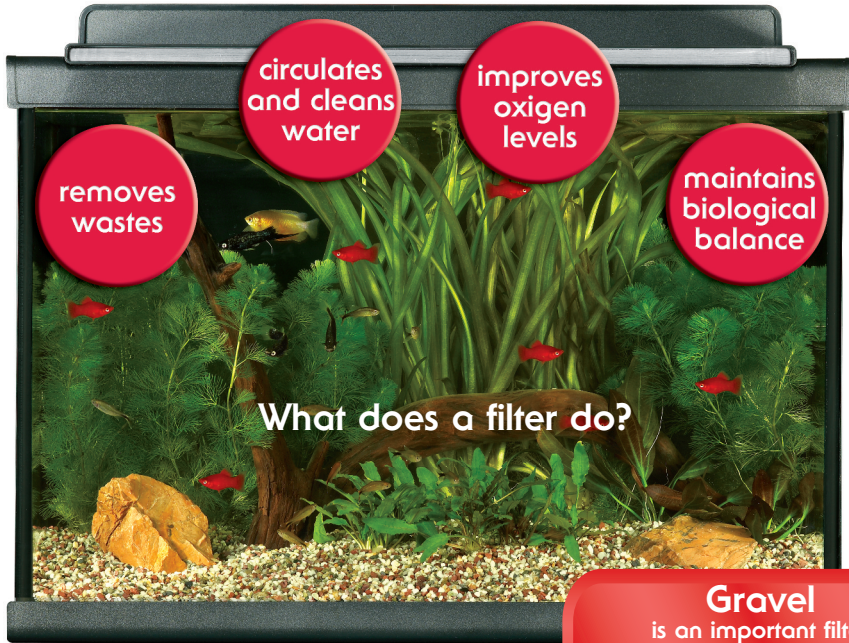
#### ● **What is mechanical filtration?**

Put simply, mechanical filters work like a sieve. Water is pumped through a filter pad inside the filter casing, which traps larger particles of debris. Over time the pad becomes clogged and the debris must be regularly removed. Mechanical filtration improves oxygen levels, provides stable conditions and reduces the build-up of dangerous nitrates.

#### ● **Biological filtration**

Biological filtration is a natural process performed by beneficial bacteria. As well as providing a mechanical 'seive' the filter pad also becomes coated with billions of these bacterial populations.





As dirty water is drawn through the pad the bacteria neutralise two of the most highly toxic compounds produced in an aquarium - ammonia and nitrite - to leave safer nitrates.

### Chemical filtration

Chemical filtration provides a way of fine-tuning your water. Different, chemically active filter media like carbon, can be used temporarily in your filter to remove specific substances, adjust hardness and pH levels and remove medication following a disease treatment.



### Gravel

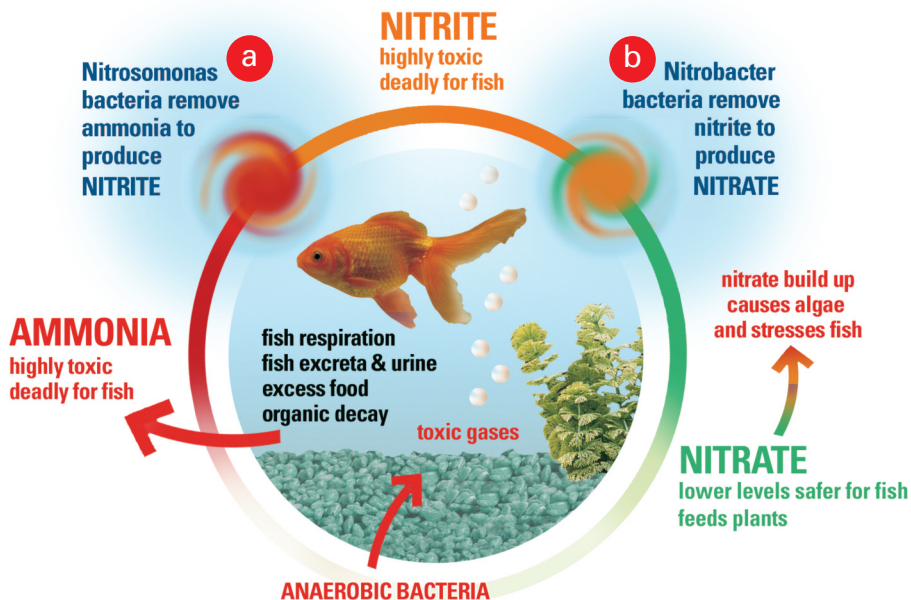
is an important filter in its own right, providing a massive surface area where billions of good bacteria live, consuming the harmful toxins in wastes which settle at the bottom of the tank



## All about water: the nitrogen cycle

the invisible battle  
being fought in all  
aquariums

When an aquarium is first set up, the bacteria that help regulate the harmful compounds take a while to establish. Before they do, the water needs to go through the nitrogen cycle...



### Nitrosomonas and nitrobacter

Good bacteria, although invisible to the human eye, should be present in massive numbers inside even the smallest aquarium. They coat every surface: gravel, decorations, plastic plants and especially inside the filter foam where ammonia and nitrites are drawn through and converted to nitrates.

### the Nutrafin range of water treatments...

Makes tapwater safe for fish.  
Coats and protects fish under stress.



Rapidly matures new aquariums.  
Bacteria consumes ammonia and nitrite.  
Repairs filters damaged by medications.



Clears green water.  
Removes cloudiness caused by dirt and silt.



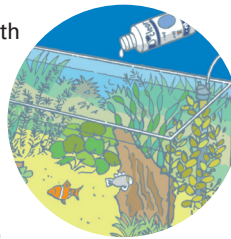
## All about water: new tank syndrome

**a** The bacteria that begin the process are the NITROSOMONAS. They reproduce every eight hours and convert toxic ammonia to nitrites, both of which are deadly for fish. **This battle for superiority takes about ten days - during which time ammonia and nitrite levels can be dangerously high. Fish can die quickly under these conditions.** That is why you should always start your aquarium with just 1 or 2 of the more hardy species, change water often and use **Nutrafin Cycle** to introduce ideal strains of 'friendly' bacteria.

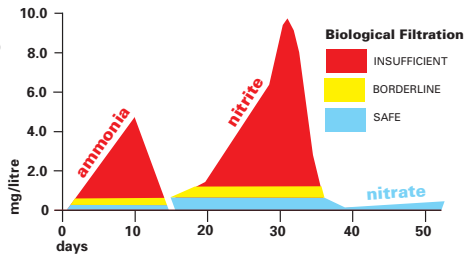
**b** After ten days, the second type of bacteria, NITROBACTER, begins to populate the tank. This strain converts the still dangerous nitrites into relatively harmless nitrates. This takes about 21 to 30 days, after which all the nitrite should be gone. **You should carry out as many partial water changes as you can in these first phases.**

Once the friendly bacteria are established, levels of ammonia and nitrite will be kept under control naturally, unless something occurs to dramatically reduce bacteria levels\*.

*\*Excessive cleaning, replacement of gravel or administering medications will destroy established populations of beneficial bacteria and lead to imbalance again. Dose with Nutrafin Cycle to restore the balance.*



**New Tank Syndrome** describes the period in which ammonia and nitrite rise suddenly to peak at dangerous levels before being converted into relatively harmless nitrate by friendly bacteria.



- Clears cloudy water caused by New Tank Syndrome bacterial blooms.
- Breaks down aquarium wastes and clears algae from gravel, filters and aquarium surfaces.
- Maintains stable pH conditions. Replenishes Carbonate Hardness (KH) levels.
- Safely increases pH. For fish species that prefer alkaline conditions.
- Safely reduces pH. For fish species that prefer acidic conditions.



## All about water: testing the water

water quality is the most vital aspect of keeping fish

Test regularly every few weeks and adjust as necessary. You can also get Nutrafin Test Kits for KH (Carbonate Hardness), Fe (Iron) and GH (General Hardness)

Ask the retailer if you need advice about pH, GH and KH requirements for the different fish you want to add to your aquarium



The Nutrafin Mini Master Test Kit brings together everything you need for routine weekly water testing (pH wide range, ammonia, nitrate and nitrite) and comes complete with stand, test tubes and pipette.

Water is the most important element in a fish's life, that's why most aquarium products are about managing water conditions: filters, heaters, water treatments, test kits, and so on.

Clear water doesn't necessarily mean that it is healthy as toxins are invisible to the eye, so it's a wise habit to test for various conditions which may lead to problems in the tank.

- **Once your tank is filled**, there are some measurable aspects of water that must be regularly tested and adjusted if you are to maintain a perfect environment for your fish. For example, the pH is the relative acidity or alkalinity of the water.
- **Water hardness and pH** are two basic parameters that are easily measured with **Nutrafin Test Kits** and are important in providing an optimal aquarium environment.
- **Test tap water** on a regular basis to make note of any fluctuations and adjust accordingly with effective products such as **Nutrafin pH Adjust up**, **Nutrafin pH Adjust down** and **Nutrafin pH Stabiliser**. Take advice from your retailer on how to use these correctly.



## All about water: dealing with algae

a little bit of algae is okay-but only a little!

**Algae is a sign of good health and balance in your aquarium. However, if it gets out of hand and is not dealt with quickly, it can have adverse effects on fish and plants.**

*These are the common types:*

**Green algae** *Appears as small green spots and dots on glass, rocks and gravel, as well as 'green water'. Caused by poor or inappropriate lighting and over exposure to strong natural light.*

**Filamentous algae** *Dark green 'hairs' attached to gravel or plant stems. Caused by too high nitrate level.*

**Feather algae** *Very dark green tufts on decorations, pumps, filters etc. Caused by high phosphate level.*

**Brown algae** *Thin layers on glass and plant leaves. Caused by an imbalance of various parameters: light, nitrites, pH, water hardness, and ammonia.*



### Avoid algae problems:

- Keep your aquarium out of direct sunlight and use the aquarium light for about 10 hours a day. (Too much light causes green algae, too little causes brown algae).
- Reduce nitrates by changing water weekly. A **Marina Easy Clean gravel vac** will remove water and waste products from the lower levels of the tank where nitrates accumulate.
- Test phosphate levels weekly. Use low phosphate foods like **Nutrafin Max**.
- In extreme or difficult cases get advice from a professional - you may need to use an algacide.

### Nitrates

Nitrates are the least harmful by-products of converted nitrogen. However, in high concentrations they are not desirable, promoting the development of algae. Partial water changes help to maintain manageable levels.

### Sun-Glo and Aqua-Glo lamps

*are made specifically for aquariums, having a light spectrum suitable for fish and plants.*



## Care & maintenance: tips and advice

develop a routine -  
it's important!

**Caring for fish means caring for your aquarium.**

**The best route to effective maintenance is to do certain essential tasks on a regular basis. This will save you time in the long run.**

**Here are some explanations about the duties you should perform if you want to maintain a healthy tank.**

**Tip:** Pour a dose of Nutrafin Cycle directly onto the new or cleaned media to give an immediate bacterial boost to your filter



### ● Partial water change

**A partial water change** means that you remove about 10-20% of the total volume of water with a jug, gravel cleaner or Multi-Vac, into a bucket. Removing water removes nitrates, preventing a build-up which could become detrimental to your fish. Never completely empty your aquarium to clean. It will disturb the natural balance of the aquarium and put your fish at high risk.

### ● Filter cleaning

**The filter cartridges** inside the filter are highly 'charged' with beneficial bacteria. However, for the filter to operate efficiently, excessive sludge needs to be removed. **Never clean or replace all cartridges at the same time** or you will destroy these important bacterial populations. If need be, simply rinse off visible sludge in the bucket of used aquarium water, never in tap water. Add a dose of **Nutrafin Cycle** to help replenish bacteria lost in the process.

### ● Topping up

**Before adding new tapwater** to the aquarium, treat it with **Nutrafin Aqua Plus** first, to make it safe.

### ● Be careful

**Never use soap or detergent** on anything that will come into contact with your fish or their water. When the canopy is lifted, don't use cleaning sprays or air fresheners in the same room. Only put your hands in the water when absolutely necessary - the oils on your hands can alarm fish. Don't use perfume, handcream, etc. before dipping hands.



## Your aquarium care kit

should consist of a few vital pieces of equipment:

### Gravel Cleaner

*use to remove waste, debris, excess food and sludge.*

### Plastic bucket

*to hold siphoned water during water changes, and to hold fresh tap water and water conditioner while refilling your aquarium.*

### Marina filter media

*spare filter cartridges for your Marina filter.*

### Marina Algae Scraper

*to effectively remove algae without scratching the tank*

### Marina fish net

*always use a purpose-made net to move fish. These nets are also handy for removing bits of leftover food.*

### Nutrafin Aqua Plus and Nutrafin Cycle

*use weekly at every partial water change.*

### Nutrafin Mini Master Test Kit

*use weekly to check water chemistry.*

## Basic rules for success

- Choose the largest aquarium your budget and space will allow - this will help water stability and give you more choice.
- Plan your aquarium - don't rush the early stages.
- Choose your filtration system carefully.
- Provide appropriate, regular, varied feeding - two or three times a day.
- Keep fish populations within reasonable limits.
- Choose fish that are compatible, but which occupy different levels of the aquarium.
- Keep water stable and well conditioned.
- Follow our Care Calendar.
- Enjoy your aquarium - it is a true glimpse of a fascinating underwater world.

If you have any questions or queries, don't hesitate to call us on our Helpline number:

Canada only:  
1-800-554-2436.

U.S.A only:  
1-800-724-2436

or contact us through our web site at  
**[www.hagen.com](http://www.hagen.com)**

## Care & maintenance: care calendar

### every day

a quick, visual check every day will go a long way to help prevent small problems growing into bigger ones.

- ✓ **Feed fish** - be careful not to overfeed.
- ✓ **Check all fish** for disease, liveliness and normal behaviour.
- ✓ **Check temperature** and make sure pumps, filters and lights are running smoothly.
- ✓ **Remove debris** - dead leaves, uneaten food etc.

### every week

develop this weekly routine, it will keep your aquarium looking great.



- ✓ **Partial water change:** syphon off about 10-20% of water into a bucket using a gravel cleaner. Retain the water for rinsing filter foam.
- ✓ **Rinse foam media** in retained aquarium water.
- ✓ **Clean fluorescent tubes and fixtures** to maintain a consistent light source.
- ✓ **Clean inner and outer glass surfaces** with specially designed scrapers.
- ✓ **Top up** with water which has been preconditioned with Nutrafin Aqua Plus. The new water should be at the same temperature as the aquarium.
- ✓ **Test the water.**
- ✓ **Dose** with Nutrafin Cycle.

### every month

a filter's performance depends on regular maintenance.

- ✓ **Maintain filter**, check the impeller and change filter media.
- ✓ **Boost new media** with Nutrafin Cycle.
- ✓ **Check your supplies** of food, water conditioners, media and other regularly used items.



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