

Pet Depot recommend the following products for good health and proper care.

Freshwater Essential items

- Aquarium** Housing for fish & plants
- Hood/Light** Secure fish & helps promote plant growth, enhances viewing & colors

- Aquarium Stand** Evenly supports weight of an aquarium
- Filter System** Maintains good water quality
- Filter Media** Removes debris & impurities from water
- Aquarium Gravel** Supports plant life; decorates aquarium
- Heater** Maintains a constant water temperature
- Thermometer** Monitors water temperature
- Water Conditioner** Removes Chlorine in water
- Aquarium Salt** Natural additive that helps cure & prevents diseases
- Fish Food** Supplies nutrition & enhances color
- Supplemental Food** Variety in diet & added nutrition
- Live Bacteria** Starts Nitrogen cycle
- Gravel Cleaner** Removes excess debris

Recommended Items

- Air pump** Supplies oxygen to the water
- Check Valve** Prevent water from back-siphoning into air pump

- Air Stones** Disperse bubbles into the water for oxygen & circulation
- Airline tubing** Path for air to flow from pump to aeration device
- Background** Makes aquarium more attractive & fish show up better
- Rocks** Provides hiding places
- Driftwood** Provides hiding places
- Fish Net** Safe way to catch fish
- Algae Scrubber** Removes algae build up
- Test Kits** Kits to test levels of water

Setting up the Aquarium:

1. Rinse the aquarium with warm water. Position the aquarium away from direct sunlight. Place on a level, solid base, preferably on an aquarium stand (to prevent a possible pressure crack).
2. Tape background on outside of Aquarium.
3. Rinse gravel to removes tiny particles then add to aquarium
4. Fill with lukewarm water to within 2" of top.
5. Add aquarium salt, water conditioner following directions on package.
6. Hook up filtration system.
7. Place heater in aquarium. Wait 15 minutes before plugging it in. Set to 76-78 degrees for tropical or 70-72 degrees for goldfish. Use thermometer to adjust accordingly.
8. Decorate as desired.
9. Fill aquarium to within 1" of top.
10. Put Hood/Glass canopy and strip light on aquarium.
11. After temperature is stabilized, add first batch of live fish. Generally the first fish are added 24 hours after setting up the aquarium.
12. Add Live Bacteria when the first fish are introduced.

Filtration:

- **Mechanical:** physical removal of debris & particles from water with the use of foams, pads, filter floss or filter cartridges.
- **Chemical:** absorption of pollutants by using types of carbon or filters
- **Biological:** encourages growth of beneficial bacteria breaking down toxic ammonia & nitrites into nitrates (Nitrogen Cycle)
- **Power Filter:** an external filter, pulls water out of aquarium, through the filter media and back into the aquarium. Usually biological, mechanical and chemical.

FRESHWATER FISH

Basic Care & Guarantee




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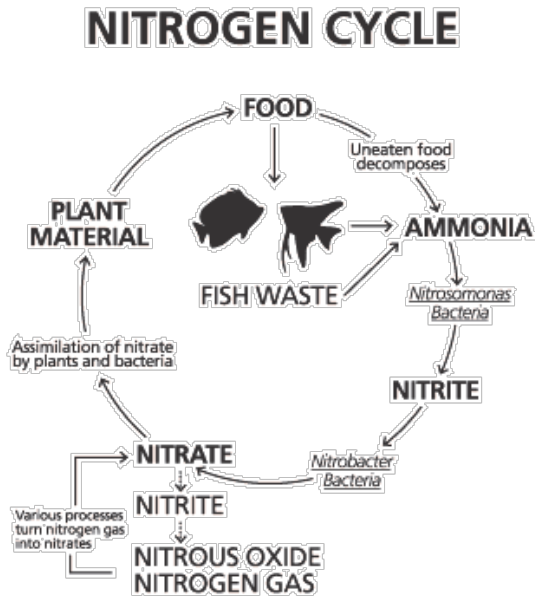
Our Mission is to promote a compassionate and caring environment for animals and our employees. Our current staff are dedicated pet lovers and join us in fulfilling our mission of caring for happy, healthy pets.

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Establishing the Nitrogen Cycle:

- Ammonia...1st stage of cycle
- Nitrite.....2nd stage of cycle
- Nitrate.....3rd stage of cycle
- Harmful compounds (ammonia & nitrites) change into beneficial (nitrates) for a balanced environment for fish and plants.



Adding Fish:

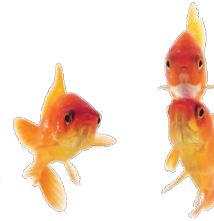
- Generally speaking, 4-6 small fish can be added to a new aquarium (10 gallon)
- Types of fish recommended for a new aquarium: barbs, swordtails, danios, and some tetras. These fish withstand the nitrogen cycle better.
- Types of fish NOT recommended for new aquariums: Neon tetras, cardinal tetras, glofish, angelfish, guppies. These types of fish do not withstand the nitrogen cycle well.
- Live bearers– should be purchased 2 females/ 1 male
- Schooling fish– should be purchased in 3 or more at one time.
- Cory Catfish– should be purchase 1 catfish for every 5 gal.
- Plecos– should purchase 1 for every 10 gallons.(Add after nitrogen cycle has occurred)
- Sexing live bearing fish- Males have a pointed fin underneath the belly area while females have a rounded fin.

Feeding Fish

We recommend feeding fish, in an established aquarium, 1-2 times daily. Feed only what the fish can eat within 1 minute. Feed fish lightly with a newer aquarium until the aquarium has cycled. Feed a variety of fish foods for healthy fish.

Aquarium Maintenance

- Wipe inside walls of aquarium with algae pad and clean under rocks.
- Change 20% of the water every 2-4 weeks with a gravel cleaner.
- Refill aquarium with water the same temperature as original water.
- Add water conditioner for amount of new water added.
- Change carbon/carbon cartridge every 30 days (Carbon deactivates in about a month).
- Clean filters/sponges if necessary.



Signs of Water Quality Problems

- Water test indicates high ammonia, nitrite or nitrate.
- Fish have red streak in fins or clamped fins
- Fish gasping at the surface or breathing rapidly
- Fish develop bacterial infections
- Fish death
- Bad odor or yellow cast to water
- Foam at the water's surface

Water Quality –Problem Solving

Reducing ammonia and nitrite levels

- If ammonia is 4ppm or higher make a 50% water change with gravel cleaner to remove excess debris.
- Change carbon, add ammonia remover and increase aeration
- Add beneficial bacteria supplement to help speed of the nitrogen cycle.
- Since overcrowding and overfeeding are major causes of high ammonia, only add recommended amounts of fish and reduce the amount of food being fed.
- 50% water change and addition of bacteria supplement may be repeated every other day until ammonia or nitrite level is reduced.

Fish Guarantee

Thank you for shopping at Pet Depot. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call us, or better yet stop in and let us know how your new fish are doing! **We want you and your new pet to be happy.** We guarantee our freshwater fish to be healthy for 14 days at 100% replacement value. Sorry, but we are unable to give cash refunds on fish. Fish loss due to incompatibility or jumping out of the aquarium are excluded. Should a problem occur, please bring in the following:

1. The receipt
2. The deceased fish
3. A sample of aquarium water (1 cup), without the fish in it.



We want to help you prevent any fish losses. We will test your water chemistry at no charge. If water chemistry is within normal test results, store credit will be given. No credit will be given until water chemistry is in normal range.

Thank you,
The Staff at

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FREE FISH FRIDAY!

Every 1st Friday of the month is Free Fish Friday! Select freshwater fish will be **BUY One Get One FREE!** See store for complete details.

