

# Starting a New Aquarium

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## **Day 1- set Up the Aquarium:**

- A) Adjust the water temperature to 76-80 degrees.  
Make sure it stays in this area for 24 hours.
- B) Dechlorinate and condition the water with chemicals
- C) Confirm that all equipment is running correctly by letting the filter run for 24 hours.

## **Day 2-3 add starter fish:**

- A) Limit fish purchases. 2-4 fish per 10 gallons every 10-14 days.
- B) Choose hardy fish
- C) Add live plants (optional)
- D) Do not feed the same day fish were purchased.

## **Day 2-12:**

- A) Begin light feedings. Feed every other day, once a day for the first month.
- B) Observe fish for stress (rapid breathing, lethargy, clamped fins).

## **Day 14:**

Recommended water change, 1/3 water change with a gravel cleaner.

## **Day 15 +:**

- A) Purchase new fish (optional) using same ratio of 2-4 fish per 10 gallons.  
Another rule is 2 inches of fish per gallon of water.
- B) As you enjoy watching your new pets, look out for signs of Notes:

**Day 15–30:**

- A) Observe fish daily for signs of stress or illness
- B) Have water tested at least once a month for ammonia.

Notes:

**Day 30 cleaning (Refer to our free how to clean sheet):**

- A) Do 1/3 to 1/2 water change with a gravel cleaner.
- B) Change filter cartridges.
- C) Have water tested one week after this water change

**Important Notes:**

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The first 4-6 weeks a tank is set up is when most people experience problems. This sheet is designed to help you get through this period. By following the above steps you should do great!

**Remember!**

- Do not overfeed.
- Buy fish in small quantities.
- Have your water tested for ammonia.
- Observe your fish for stress.
- Have fun & enjoy!

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