

## Tropical Basics

### Checklist

- Glass aquarium (minimum 15 litres)
- Gravel substrate
- Filter
- Heater & Thermometer
- Chlorine & Chloramine neutralizer (water ager)
- General hardness (GH) & Carbonate hardness (KH) generators
- pH, GH & KH test kits
- Live aquatic plants
- Magnetic glass cleaner
- Gravel siphon
- Net
- Food

### Step 1

Rinse tank, gravel & accessories thoroughly in tap water. Ideally place your aquarium away from windows or direct sunlight to minimise algae growth.

### Step 2

Add gravel and fill your aquarium with cold tap water. Add water ager & GH & KH generators as per directions. Add heater, thermometer, plants & accessories & let sit for 12 hours. Test water to ensure correct water parameters (see our Water Quality Basics care sheet) and adjust as required (see our staff if you are unsure on how to do this).

### Step 3

Remember that not all tropical fish are suitable to house in the same aquarium (see our staff for guidance). Introduce your tropical fish to their new home by floating their transport bag in the aquarium for 10mins. Open the bag and add as much new aquarium water as is already in the bag. Float for another 10mins. Using a net, gently place your fish into their new home (without adding water from the transport bag).

### Maintenance

Once a week remove 10% of aquarium water using a gravel siphon.

Add dechlorinator & GH & KH conditioners to the new water before adding it to the aquarium.

Always use cold tap water. Clean aquarium glass with a magnetic glass cleaner.

Replace filter sponges or rinse in removed aquarium water as required (do not rinse in tap water as this will destroy beneficial filtration bacteria). Remove & clean filter impeller & impeller cavity every 6 weeks or as required (see our Filter Maintenance care sheet).

### Feeding

A varied diet will maximize the health of your tropical fish. A mixture of tropical flakes & granules are a good staple diet for your mid & upper swimming fish along with sinking pellets for your bottom feeders. This should ideally be supplemented with live black worms & brine shrimp & a mix of frozen worms, shrimp & daphnia.

### Tips

- Healthy plant growth is the key to healthy fish as they absorb waste products from the water. (see our Plant Tank Basics care sheet)
- Regularly test your water for ammonia, nitrite & nitrate levels to ensure your biological filtration is sufficient, you are maintaining it appropriately & your aquarium is not over stocked or over fed. (see our Biological Basics care sheet)

*Feel free to contact the friendly staff at Fish & feather for further information*

We recommend:



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