

Useful Tips For A Clean Aquarium

A clean aquarium is more than just water you can still see through. It also means happy fish in a clean, well-maintained environment that looks great as well. Changing and cleaning your aquariums water is just the beginning of your maintenance routine. There are some other things you'll need to do to make sure your fish stay happy and healthy.

Before starting on your cleaning, always unplug any electrical attachments or accessories on your tank, such as the filter, lights, or heaters you may have. Don't use any soap or detergent to clean your tank. These chemicals are harmful to fish and could easily make them very ill or even result in death. If those chemicals can make tank fish ill, then think about what flushing them down your sink each day does to the natural environment of fish in the wild.

The next two cleaning steps both need to be done, but the order in which you do them is up to you. Aquarium stores may advise that you vacuum first, but this reduces the water levels, so this means the scraping chore can potentially increase the algae concentration in the smaller amount of water remaining and can harm your fish.

Vacuuming Your Tank " Aquariums call tank vacuums Pythons and they're nothing more than a rubber hose with a tube attached at the end. The idea is to drain a little water from your tank at the same time as sucking up any dirt, debris, food waste or other bits that can pollute your aquarium. As you vacuum, run the tube around decorations and filters and down into the gravel or stones to get the bits that hide there.

Don't vacuum for too long as you risk reducing the water levels too far. You shouldn't remove any more than about one-fifth of the total water volume, so this means vacuum quickly.

Scraping Your Tank " Scraping the sides of your aquarium to remove algae or debris is an easy job and should be done using a sponge attached to a handle. These can be bought from the aquarium store and are designed especially for this purpose. The sponge is designed to easily remove any algae from decorations or glass or your filter. Always check that the type of sponge you use won't be too abrasive or it can scratch or even damage acrylic surfaces.

Once you've finished your vacuuming and scraping, begin filling the tank back to normal water levels. Remember not to use tap water in your aquarium. You should use always de-chlorinated water in your tank. When the water is back at a proper level, test the water for ammonia, nitrite and nitrate levels with your aquarium test kit. If you have a salt-water aquarium, then always check the salinity levels to avoid your fish becoming stressed and sick.

About the Author

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