

## An Aquarium That You Can Count On

To any aquarium hobbyist, the exciting and creative time to be had building your own little underwater fantasyland often can feel let down by what follows: watching a week's pall of dirt and dullness settling over everything that you prized for its clear color and healthful liveliness. The joy of building and owning a beautiful aquarium asks of only a small sacrifice: the will to work some regular time for cleaning into your schedule, as you would to walk your air breathing pets. Aquarium maintenance as it happens, deals with more than merely a good scrubbing for everything in sight that is slimy; you need to know any little about water chemistry and the biological requirements for healthy fish life as well.

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The typical aquarium needs a little hands-on time about twice a month. The maintenance routine usually begins with switching off electricity to the tank, for safety's sake. Aquarium maintenance shops typically get a lot of business from first-time hobbyists who scrub their tanks without thinking about how today's tanks mostly come in acrylic and not glass. Replacing scratched panes can be a tidy business. Acrylic needs special cleaning techniques. A good way to go, cleaning the algae film off the front of your aquarium would be to use an improvised plastic scraper, an old credit card for example. Cleaning the salt deposits off the front window in a saltwater aquarium, is important too. When you clean out your aquarium filter, do no more thorough a job than rinsing it in any water you took out of your tank. The filter's medium holds a valuable collection of friendly bacteria; if you just took it out to clean under the tap, you would waste a lot of it.

Most of the uneaten fish food and water, bodily waste and other debris collects in the gravel and substrate that lines the bottom of your tank. There are special aquarium vacuum cleaners available that can help you with this part of your aquarium maintenance routine. Cleaning your aquarium each time, you'll find that you need to bail out and replace no more than about a quarter of its water capacity to keep things fresh. If you have a saltwater aquarium, you will need to put on your chemist's hat and make sure that you have exactly the right level of saltiness to the water.

But freshly-made saltwater can sometimes sicken your fish, and you need to use water prepared a day in advance. You need a hydrometer to check for the right level of saltiness, you need to make sure that you use water with no chlorine in it; your aquarium supplies dealer will have the chemicals you need to clean the chlorine up out of the water that comes out the tap. It doesn't take much more than that to keep your aquarium clean and your fish happy. Aquarium maintenance is not really difficult; it's just that there's just something about it that upsets even the most stable among us.

## About the Author

I like blogging about pets and [christian books](#) on my [best book reviews](#) website daily.

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