

Chapter 1 : Freshwater Aquarium Fish Guide For Freshwater Fish

Aquarium Maintenance Tips and Fish Care Guidelines Good aquarium maintenance practices lead to a healthy aquatic environment and thriving fish, providing years of joy for the hobbyist. Jump to OUR Routine Maintenance Guide.

Tropical fish can be challenging to care for, but a few easy tips will get your aquarium running smoothly. Source Caring for Freshwater Tropical Fish Keeping a tropical aquarium can be a rewarding experience. Freshwater fish tanks are inexpensive to set up and maintain, and there is an incredible array of fish available with which you can stock your new aquarium. Building a tiny ecosystem of animals and plants is an amazing feeling. Many people are hooked for life after they purchase their first fish tank, and their hobby quickly expands to bigger aquariums, more aquariums, or both! Unfortunately, for many fish keepers it can also be a very bumpy road. Understanding which fish to purchase, what basic maintenance to perform and when, how much and how often to feed among other details is important for keeping your fish alive and healthy. For beginners it can be especially frustrating. There is a ton of information available on the internet, but much of it confusing and contradictory. How is the newbie supposed to know where to start? In this article you will read about 6 tips that, if followed, will greatly increase your chance of success as a newbie fish keeper. Here are 6 things you can do to increase your chances of having happy, healthy fish, and a great-looking aquarium. This is something that should be done before you ever add fish to your tank. You should not purchase your fish tank and your fish on the same day! Cycling involves the growth of healthy micro-organisms within the tank, which will break down waste and help keep the water safe for fish. This takes a little time, and most experts recommend letting the tank run for at least a week before adding fish. It is important to start a new aquarium the right way. Many new aquarium kits come with a little packet you can use to add the necessary elements for cycling, or you can purchase it separately at the pet store. You can also cycle the tank simply by adding a little fish food, which will begin to break down and kick off the process. What you should never do is attempt to cycle your tank with fish already in it. This is very unhealthy for the fish, and until the water parameters are safe they can easily become ill and die. Test and Monitor Water Parameters So how do you know when the water is safe for your fish? If you test the water weekly, one kit should last you quite a while. Ammonia, nitrates and nitrites are natural chemical compounds that result from the lifecycles in your tank. They are fine in low levels, but left unchecked they can build up to unhealthy amounts. Follow the instructions on the test kit and take the necessary steps to keep the water parameters correct. You can also test the pH of your water source with the kit. Most fish can adapt to most pH levels, but if the water is very hard unfortunately it may be necessary to bring the pH down with chemicals. Perform Regular Water Changes If you find your water parameters out of line there are over-the-counter products that will help keep these chemical levels in order. But, in my opinion, clean water is usually a better answer than adding even more foreign chemicals to the tank. Frequent water changes are the key. You need to remove about one-third of the water from your tank every week and replace it with fresh, clean water. This dilutes the chemicals in the water and makes it healthier for your fish. In fact, if you fail to do this you will find your water parameters harder to keep under control. The waste buildup will pollute the water to the point where it becomes unhealthy for the fish. You should also learn to vacuum the gravel in your tank, to remove the debris that has accumulated on the bottom. Water changers and siphons are available, which enable you to vacuum and remove water at the same time. Be aware of what you are buying when you stock your tank. Some fish commonly available in pet stores grow much too large for most tanks. Research Fish Before Purchasing When it comes time to purchase fish, take some time to research exactly what you are buying. Understand how big the fish will get, its temperament, its space requirements and which fish it will get along with. Better to do your own research and learn about your pet before purchase. Along these lines, do not overstock your tank. This advice is nonsense, and you should ignore it. Knowing what fish you are purchasing and what their needs are helps you to understand how many fish can safely live in your tank. An overcrowded tank results in increased aggression, increased stress, increased disease and an overall unhealthy living situation for your fish. It is far better to under-stock your tank and have fewer but healthier fish. Choosing Fish for Your Aquarium 5. Avoid Overfeeding Your Fish

Rest assured, it is very difficult to starve a fish. One feeding per day is plenty, making sure you provide food items for each type of fish in your tank. A good flake food meets most needs, but if you have many bottom feeders you may wish to include sinking pellets. Do not feed more than the fish will eat in a few minutes. Excess food is not only unhealthy for the fish and can lead to disease, but it dirties the tank and can cause spikes in the aforementioned chemicals. It can also help cause undesirable situations like excess algae growth or an outbreak of pest snails. This helps to keep the tank cleaner, and the fish healthier. In simple terms, remember that what goes into a fish must come out, so the more you feed your fish the dirtier the tank will get. Live plants can help maintain a healthy environment for your fish. Manage Light in and Around Your Aquarium One of the most frustrating things for the new aquarium owner is managing algae in an aquarium. Algae are similar to plants, and like all plants they require light to thrive. Of course you are going to have lights in your tank, because you want to see your fish. So how do you see your fish without growing a huge crop of algae? One way is to manage the amount of light your tank gets every day. When you decide on the placement of your tank, try to keep it away from anywhere that will get strong sunlight throughout the day. Like any plant, algae loves sunlight and will flourish if given the chance. You should keep the tank light on a maximum of 12 hours every day. In reality you can probably do with much less. Remember that the light in the fish tank is for you, not the fish. The moderate lighting of daylight is plenty for them, and about what they would experience in the wild. If there is nobody home there is no point in having the light on. You can keep the light off while you are work or at school, and turn it on when you come home at night. Obviously the exception here is if you have live plants in your tank. They will, of course, require a full 12 hours of overhead lighting per day. However, live plants will suck up many of the nutrients algae needs for survival, and in themselves can keep algae levels in check. Once your tank is up and running the care and maintenance required to keep it going really should not take up a lot of your time. Remember that fish are not disposable pets, and if you choose to keep them in your home they are worth taking the time to care for properly. Like any animal, your tropical fish need a clean, safe and stress-free living environment. Yes, you will make mistakes and lose a few fish along the way, and everyone does. Good luck with your tropical freshwater aquarium! What size tank do you have or are thinking of getting?

Chapter 2 : Aquarium Maintenance | The Fish Guide

Good aquarium maintenance methods will lead to a healthy and balanced aquatic atmosphere and booming fishes, giving years of joy. Investing half an hour every alternative week on all pond fish tanks seems affordable when compared to money and time spent attempting to solve a problem, which may possibly have been prevented in the first place.

The following schedule will help you better organize your time and effort while tackling routine maintenance responsibilities. Feed livestock as appropriate for the species kept. Check the water temperature. Verify that all equipment is functioning properly. Check the tank and all hose, tube, or pipe connections for evidence of drips or leaks. Empty your protein skimmer collection cup. Depending on skimmate production, the size of the cup, and whether or not the cup is equipped with a drain hose for remote skimmate collection, this could stretch to a weekly task. Clean the algae film from your aquarium glass with an algae magnet, brush, or scraper. Depending on the rate at which algae builds up on glass, this may be every other day or weekly. Test critical water parameters – specific gravity, pH, ammonia, nitrite, nitrate, and alkalinity. Reefkeepers will also need to test calcium and possibly other parameters. Wipe salt creep off the aquarium cover, tank edges, power cords, and other surfaces exposed to salt spray. Wipe clean the inside neck of your protein skimmer to eliminate gunk buildup and promote proper foam production. Thoroughly rinse any filter socks, foam blocks, sponge sleeves, bonded filter pads, or other mechanical filtration media to eliminate trapped particulate waste. Clean the algae film from your aquarium glass with an algae magnet, brush, or scraper. Go larger if the nitrate level dictates! Clean calcium deposits from your tank cover and your light fixture cover glass while the fixture is turned off and cool using a cloth or paper towel dampened with white vinegar. Replace any activated carbon used in the system monthly. Disassemble your protein skimmer and thoroughly clean all components. Soak powerheads, pumps, heaters, thermometers, and other removable submerged components in white vinegar or a 1: Every six months to yearly:

Chapter 3 : 6 Easy Fish Tank Care and Maintenance Tips for Beginners | PetHelpful

Fish keeping doesn't have to be difficult and I want to help as many beginners to the hobby by sharing a few tips, videos and equipment suggestions for proper aquarium maintenance. This step by step guide to Cleaning An Aquarium is a great reference guide.

What are the steps to start an aquarium maintenance business? A clear plan is essential for success as an entrepreneur. A few important topics to consider are your initial costs, your target market, and how long it will take you to break even. Form a legal entity. Establishing a legal business entity prevents you from being personally liable if your aquarium maintenance business is sued. You will need to register for a variety of state and federal taxes before you can open for business. Open a business bank account. A dedicated checking account for your aquarium maintenance business keeps your finances organized and makes your business appear more professional to your customers. Set up business accounting. Recording your various expenses and sources of income is critical to understanding the financial performance of your business. Keeping accurate and detailed accounts also greatly simplifies your annual tax filing. Obtain necessary permits and licenses. Failure to acquire necessary permits and licenses can result in hefty fines, or even cause your business to be shut down. Insurance is highly recommended for all business owners. If you hire employees, workers compensation insurance may be a legal requirement in your state. Your brand is what your company stands for, as well as how your business is perceived by the public. A strong brand will help your business stand out from competitors. Establish a web presence. A business website allows customers to learn more about your company and the products or services you offer. You can also use social media to attract new clients or customers. Select your state below for an in-depth guide on completing each of these steps in your home state. One of the greatest resources an entrepreneur can have is quality mentorship. As you start planning your business, connect with a free business resource near you to get the help you need. Having a support network in place to turn to during tough times is a major factor of success for new business owners. Try one month membership for for free. What are some insider tips for jump starting an aquarium maintenance business? How business owners interact with their clients is extremely important. Business owners can complement clients on the cleanliness of their aquarium, the health of their fish, a well-conceived set-up, or any other thing they think of. Complimenting clients puts them at ease and helps them feel accomplished, and it will also help them receive whatever constructive feedback you may want to offer them in terms of how they are caring for their aquatic pets. Business owners may even want to purchase a small office space within a pet store where they can store their supplies. Providing complimentary service for store employees may also help business owners find new clients. How to keep customers coming back Business owners can differentiate their aquarium maintenance businesses from others in their area by providing excellent service at an affordable price. How and when to build a team Most aquarium maintenance businesses can be run as a one-person operation. If a business gets more clients than a single person is able to service, an employee may need to be hired. Additionally, very large tanks may sometimes require two people to clean, but it is unlikely that newer businesses will service tanks like this. Most businesses are required to collect sales tax on the goods or services they provide. To learn more about how sales tax will affect your business, check out our informative guide, Sales Tax for Small Businesses. Aquarium maintenance businesses may also wish to look into applying for a resale certificate , which allows retailers to purchase goods intended for resale without paying sales tax. This is especially useful as many aquarium maintenance business owners sell products used to maintain aquariums between cleanings. In addition, certain local licensing or regulatory requirements may apply. For more information about local licenses and permits: Services Contract In businesses where services are provided on an extended basis, a services contract is often put in place outlining terms and conditions of service. Aquarium maintenance businesses should require clients to sign a services agreement before engaging in a long-term cleaning project. This agreement should clarify client expectations and minimize risk of legal disputes by setting out payment terms and conditions and service level expectations. Here is an example of one such services agreement. Reduce Personal Liability Structuring your business as a limited liability

company LLC ensures your personal assets are protected in the event your business is sued.

Chapter 4 : Routine Fish Tank Maintenance - The First Tank Guide - Regular Basic Care Required for an A

The aquarium equipment you have to house your fish will need some maintenance. If you keep up with this, your equipment should last a long time and continue to be effective. If you keep up with this, your equipment should last a long time and continue to be effective.

Jump to routine maintenance guide! Expensive and time-consuming problems can be prevented by spending thirty minutes on maintenance every other week. The biggest factor for maintenance is tank stability. Water Changes A key part of aquarium maintenance is the water change , which should be performed about every two weeks. A good method is to replace the water extracted while vacuuming the gravel, which will eliminate uneaten foods and other residues that settle on the substrate. It is highly recommended to check the water parameters of both the tank and replacement water. Most tap water city water contains either chlorine or chloramine. Using a water conditioner will neutralize the chlorine in both cases, but ammonia will still be present in the latter. It has to be broken down by the nitrifying bacteria present in the aquarium. This may take longer than your fish can tolerate. Other elements of municipal water may be phosphates , iron, and other heavy metals. To find out about your tap water chemistry, call your local water company. Filtered water should also be checked on a regular basis and should be considered part of your aquarium maintenance routine. The filter membranes could be damaged or may require replacement prior to the expiration date. Testing Aquarium Water Water chemistry is not visible; therefore, it is vital to check it on a regular basis. The best way to make this a routine is to check on the tank chemistry while changing the water. The vital parameters are pH, nitrates , nitrites , and carbonate hardness salinity for marine tanks. Stability is the main factor with pH. KH carbonate hardness is the indicator of pH stability. It should be kept under close observation if it comes close to 4. You must take action if it decreases any further. Half a teaspoon of baking soda per twenty-five gallons of water will raise the kH by about 1 dH Nitrites should be undetectable at all times except during cycling. Nitrates should be kept below 10 ppm in freshwater and 5 ppm in marine and reef preferably 0 ppm. Aquarium Filtration The proper function of the filter is essential. Filter inserts floss, Algone, activated carbon should be changed at least every four weeks. A high fish load may require shorter periods. Trapped particles will decompose in the filter as they would in the tank. The filter should also be cleaned once a month do not touch the bio-wheels, if present by using the water extracted from the tank during the water change. Recommended Aquarium Maintenance Routine Make sure the equipment is running properly. Watch your fish during feeding. Behavioral changes are a good indicator of a potential problem. Weekly Count your fish. In case of fish death, smaller species can decompose quickly, resulting in ammonia and nitrite spikes, and eventually high nitrate levels. Every Other Week Test your water for the vital parameters: Clean the aquarium walls. Filter floss is fairly cheap and very efficient. Start from the bottom upward and rinse out often. Rinse filter inserts cartridges with the extracted water. Monthly Replace filter inserts, cartridges, floss, carbon, and Algone. Inspect tubing, connections, airstones, skimmers and other parts for proper operation. Clean aquarium top to assure your lighting is not affected. Check the expiration dates printed on the boxes and bottles of the aquarium supplies you use. Do not use after the imprinted date. Expired test kits will give false readings and may prompt you to take unnecessary action.

Chapter 5 : Tropical Fish Aquarium Care and Maintenance for Beginner

Keeping a tropical aquarium can be a rewarding experience. Freshwater fish tanks are inexpensive to set up and maintain, and there is an incredible array of fish available with which you can stock your new aquarium. Building a tiny ecosystem of animals and plants is an amazing feeling. Many people.

To keep it awesome looking, you have some regular aquarium maintenance work to do. In other words, you must know how to clean a fish tank. An aquarium is not something you can just set it up once and enjoy it without taking care of it. Harmful chemicals can build up in the fish tank over time. Water PH might crash. Algae and carbon deposit, as well as some organic materials, can build up on the glass of your fish tank. More and more fish poop can become visible on the substrate. It requires your regular attention to keep the fish as well as the whole aquarium system healthy and beautiful. To keep the fish and the aquarium system healthy, we recommend weekly aquarium maintenance. Although you may do it once every two weeks, weekly maintenance keeps the aquarium and fish healthier. In fact, it makes your job easier if you do it more frequently. List of tasks during aquarium maintenance and the reasons to do them 1. What some people might not know is why we must replace the aquarium water. And how much water to replace. If you have a good understanding of Aquarium Nitrogen Cycle, you should know that nitrate will build up over time. Typical aquarium hobbyists aim for below 40ppm for nitrate concentration in the fish tank. The only way to remove nitrate is through partial water change. For more sensitive fish, below 20ppm might be ideal. The process of forming nitrate is also acidic. It can eat away at the water buffer over time. As a result, at some point, it will eventually crash the water PH. In this case, the water PH can suddenly go from 8. It is incredibly unhealthy for the fish to experience such a sudden massive swing in water PH. In fact, any significant change in the water parameter such as water temperature, PH, hardness, and nitrate concentration all can shock and even kill the fish. It is precisely why we recommend partial water change instead of full water change. Never take the fish out of the tank during the water change for the very same reason of not to shock them. Weekly instead of monthly water change is also for the same purpose because if you wait for too long before a water change, there will be more nitrate and the PH might be too low. Then a sudden water change will restore the PH, and it can also shock the fish. The percentage of partial water change is not a fixed number. The idea is to replace just enough water to keep the harmful substances in the water in check without shocking the fish. You may choose any percentage according to your own need. To clean the substrate for debris It is obvious that fish will produce waste. Fish poop is not a pretty sight, especially when there is a lot of it at the bottom of the tank. The insightful scene is the least of your worry. While a bit of fish poop should not be your concern, too much fish poop builds up over weeks and months, and it might set the aquarium nitrogen cycle off balance, causing an ammonia spike. Even if the aquarium filter is efficient enough to avoid an ammonia spike in your aquarium, nitrate will still build up much faster. Because there is a higher production of ammonia. It can result in so-called Old Tank Syndrome. As was mentioned in Aquarium Filter For Fish Tanks, to remove the fish poop, you will need to use an aquarium vacuum to suck up all the fish waste and other debris from the bottom of the fish tank during every partial water change. To clean the sides of the fish tank It is not uncommon that there will be build-up on the sides of the fish tank glass. Sometimes it can be algae; sometimes it can be carbon deposits and even some organic material produced by the breakdown of fish poop and leftover fish food. Whatever it is building up there, it can make the aquarium look dirty, thus blocking your view. Regular cleaning will ensure crystal clear glass for your enjoyment. You can quickly do it with a piece of algae scraper. To clean the aquarium filter system It is natural for some debris in the fish tank such as fish poop and leftover fish food to get sucked up into the aquarium filter, and the water flow rate of the filter will decrease over time. You might hear the filter getting louder and louder. In some extreme cases, it can damage the motor and cause malfunction to the filter system. While it is not recommended to clean the aquarium filter too often to avoid possible damage to the beneficial nitrogen cycle bacteria colonies in it, the filter system still must be cleaned once in a while to keep the water flowing. And to avoid an old tank syndrome resulting from too much fish poop and other organic debris building up inside the filter. How often the aquarium filter needs to

be cleaned depends on what type of filter system you have. For example, hang on the back power filter might require more regular maintenance than a canister filter because it usually can suck in more debris. It is recommended that an aquarium filter system should be cleaned at least once a month. It also depends on how well the filter itself is protected. If you have a pre-filter installed on the intake of your filter system to block the debris from getting in, you might not need to clean the filter for months. In this case, you will need to regularly wash the debris off the pre-filter, which is much simpler than cleaning the filter itself. Now we know why the weekly aquarium maintenance is necessary. How should we proceed? Prepare for aquarium maintenance 1. Set up a regular maintenance schedule. It is best to be on the same day every week, not necessarily to be at the same hour. It should become a natural habit of yours. Although we recommended weekly aquarium maintenance, you may do it twice or even three times a week as you wish. While it is not required, at least more frequent partial water change can keep the fish healthier. Get all the necessary equipment and supplies ready for the aquarium maintenance. Get the following ready: Prepare new water for fish. Fish dislike a sudden swing in water temperature. The new water should have a temperature very close to the old water in the tank to avoid shocking the fish. Larger than a 6F difference in water temperatures might result in a shock and even quick deaths of some more sensitive tropical fish species. That is why we need to prepare one or more buckets of clean water long before we do the water change. Prepare the same amount of water you plan to remove. The new water saved in the buckets need to be treated with your usual aquarium water conditioner to remove chlorine and chloramines. If you have additional aquarium heaters and thermometers, they can be used to heat the clean water in the buckets to make sure the temperature is the same or close to the old water in the fish tank. For those who use Reverse Osmosis water instead of tap water, you need to add water buffer back into the RO water before letting it sit. Or the PH might crash before you use it. Steps of aquarium maintenance 1. Unplug all the electrical equipment, such as filter, heater. Better safe than sorry. Fish tank maintenance requires you to put your hands directly into the tank water. Unplug all the electrical equipment first will keep you safe from possible electrical shock in case of a leakage. It will also prevent the filter system from taking up too much debris from the substrate during the maintenance. Partial water change with substrate vacuuming. By using an aquarium vacuum and a water bucket, you can remove the debris from the substrate and remove the old water from the tank at the same time. You should be gentle while doing this to avoid scaring the fish. Remove only as much water as the available new water you have prepared. Clean the sides of the fish tank. While some fish hobbyists might prefer to do this step ahead of substrate vacuuming, I do it afterward to avoid creating debris from the substrate all over the fish tank during the cleaning. You may use an algae scraper to clean the front and the sides of the fish tank. For those who have acrylic tanks, we need special algae scraper for acrylic tanks to avoid scratching it. Refill the aquarium with already prepared clean water You should carefully do this. Do not dump the water into the fish tank too quickly; it might make a mess of the substrate and scare the fish. Adding new water slowly into the tank can also help fish acclimate to the new change in water perimeter, thus avoiding shock. Clean the aquarium filter Aquarium filter cleaning is not required every week. You only need to clean it when it is clogged with debris, and you can do it before all the other steps. To clean the aquarium filter system, you must be extremely careful not to damage the beneficial bacteria in the filter media. You must not wash the filter or the filter media directly under the tap, or in untreated tap water. Chlorine in the tap water can kill the good bacteria and cause your aquarium nitrogen cycle to crash. You can easily avoid it by using aquarium water conditioner with the tap water in a water bucket. You can also use the old tank water which you have just removed from the aquarium during a water change.

Chapter 6 : How to Start an Aquarium Maintenance Business | How to Start an LLC

This entry was posted in Fish and tagged aquarium, Aquarium Maintenance, clean a fish tank, fish tank, fish tank maintenance, how to clean a fish tank, substrate vacuuming, weekly partial water change by admin.

Filters can be a source of confusion and worry to newcomers to the hobby, with the various fiddly bits and pieces, differing arrangements of media and the concern over not killing off your carefully cultured good bacteria. Our easy to follow guide will take you through the basics, and our short video by Jeroen Wijnands demonstrates how to disassemble, clean, reassemble and restart your filter. How often to clean your aquarium filter How often you should clean your filter varies between set ups. Keep an eye on water tests and keep a check on the flow rate of water coming back to the aquarium. If water test results show anything amiss, such as ammonia or nitrite in a mature and fully cycled tank, you should check the filter is functioning properly as part of your investigations into the problem. External filters tend to require less maintenance than internal filters as they tend to be bigger and so can go for longer without needing maintenance. Make sure all the pipes and fittings are still attached – boisterous fish have been known to knock spray bars off the end of the pipe! Weekly checks and maintenance for your aquarium filter As a minimum you should check the flow of the filter each week. Apart from the potential for water quality problems a filter which is struggling to pull water through may get overheated, or if flow has reduced to a trickle it may even be running dry which can damage the filter. You can also hold your hand over it and feel how strong the flow is. Clean the inlet cage of any grot and debris to make sure water can easily flow into the filter. A brush around the outside of it should be sufficient for normal maintenance. If you have a prefilter e. You should also check the outside of the canister for any signs of leaks such as drips or water marks, or any dampness in the cupboard or wherever the filter is kept. As mentioned above, keeping a check on flow is probably the easiest method of gauging when it needs cleaning. A selection of brushes will be useful for getting into the nooks and crannies of your filter. A selection of brushes etc. These can come in handy when cleaning your filter and trying to catch any stray shrimp or fry. Turn off any UV sterilisers that run inline with the filter. This is a safety precaution as many models of inline UVs should not be on while there is no water in them. To clean internal aquarium filters Remove the filter from the aquarium and place in a bucket. Disassemble the filter so you can get at the media and impeller. Clean the media by giving it a good swish and squeeze in some old tank water. Use a small brush, sponge, or bit of filter floss to clean the impeller, the impeller housing and filter housing. Use a small brush etc. Reassemble and replace in the aquarium. Internal filters should fire up as soon as you turn the power on. Reassemble and replace in the aquarium and turn the power on again. To clean an external aquarium filter canister and media Disconnect the hoses from the canister – you may need a tea towel at hand to catch any drips as it disconnects. On a nice day you can take them into the garden and make as much mess as you like! Unclip the lid from the canister. Take the media out and place it in a bucket. To clean ceramic media you just need to swish it around in some old tank water. How best to do this depends on the size of the filter – bigger ones you may find a large plastic garden trug is useful. Fill this with some old tank water and swish everything around in the trug. Smaller filter baskets are likely to fit in a bucket though. Remove the impeller and use a small brush, sponge, or bit of filter floss to clean the impeller and impeller housing. Make sure all seals are clean; you may wish to smear the seals and any o-rings with a little silicon grease not Vaseline! Reassemble everything, reconnect the filter canister to the pipes, prime the filter if necessary and turn the power back on once the canister has filled with water. External filters should fire up once the canisters are filled and the power is turned on. Happily, gravity and the laws of physics are your friends – your filter will prime once you get the knack of dealing with it. Some external filters have a priming button which you use as a pump to pull water into the filter and set off the flow of water into the canister. These are great if your tubes are empty of water but if the tubes have water in them, or you have particularly long tubes e. Just a word of caution on sucking the tube to start the siphon process – if you have sick fish or any medication in the tank DO NOT do this as it can result in a nasty stomach upset if you accidentally swallow any water! You can often get the flow going just by lowering the pipe to the ground. If the tubing is a bit gunky it can reduce the flow of

water through the filter. To clean the tubing, remove it from the aquarium and take it outside or to a sink. Jeroen uses a homemade cleaning device, but there are commercially available devices too. These are brushes fixed to the end of long wires which you can push through the tubing to get it clean. Pass your cleaning device through the tubing a few times and rinse it through to get all the loosened gunk out. How to clean a filter, by Jeroen Wijnands reproduced under Creative Commons by kind permission of Jeroen. How long do I have before the bacteria starts dying off? How often should I change the filter sponges and ceramics? Despite implications to the contrary, filter sponges can last for many years. Sponges can be cut in half and replaced in two sections with a few weeks in between each swap. Filters with more than one sponge can have one replaced at a time. Filter floss should be replaced more frequently though. This is the fine, usually white, filter wool or floss which is the last thing the water passes through before going back to the tank. Some filters come with special cartridges to remove ammonia. Nitrate removing media will need replacing as directed by the manufacturer, as will anything to remove phosphate. It can be used to remove medications from the water. It just stops adsorbing anything. Note the difference between absorb and adsorb – from Google: The way the water flows through the filter is the key to understanding what order to put the media in. Any carbon or chemical media such as nitrate reducing media should come last to help keep it as clean as possible and last as long as possible. Take a deep breath and a step back then try again. It can be frustrating and worrying but bacteria will last several hours and you have plenty of time to find user guides online and ask for help on one of our recommended forums. Tea and cake, an essential piece of aquarium cleaning equipment!

Chapter 7 : Aquarium Maintenance | racedaydvl.com

maintenance guide Even if your aquarium water looks crystal clear, however by stirring up the substrate with a slight hand movement, you'll be shocked at how much detritus there is. Whenever fish are being fed, food particles tend to submerge to the tank bottom which leads to decay and the food that is eaten will eventually be released back.

Expensive and time-consuming problems can be prevented by spending thirty minutes on maintenance every other week. The biggest factor for maintenance is tank stability. As long as everything is running properly and your fish are healthy, there is no need for any major change, even if the pH or hardness seems to be slightly out of range; only increases or decreases of the major aquarium water parameters will need your careful but immediate attention. **Water Changes** A key part of aquarium maintenance is the water change, which should be performed about every two weeks. A good method is to replace the water extracted while vacuuming the gravel, which will eliminate uneaten foods and other residues that settle on the substrate. It is highly recommended to check the water parameters of both the tank and replacement water. Most tap water city water contains either chlorine or chloramine. Using a water conditioner will neutralize the chlorine in both cases, but ammonia will still be present in the latter. It has to be broken down by the nitrifying bacteria present in the aquarium. This may take longer than your fish can tolerate. Other elements of municipal water may be phosphates, iron, and other heavy metals. To find out about your tap water chemistry, call your local water company. Filtered water should also be checked on a regular basis and should be considered part of your aquarium maintenance routine. The filter membranes could be damaged or may require replacement prior to the expiration date. Testing the Aquarium Water Water chemistry is not visible; therefore, it is vital to check it on a regular basis. The best way to make this a routine is to check on the tank chemistry while changing the water. The vital parameters are pH, nitrates, nitrites, and carbonate hardness salinity for marine tanks. Stability is the main factor with pH. KH carbonate hardness is the indicator of pH stability. It should be kept under close observation if it comes close to 4. Nitrites should be undetectable at all times except during cycling. If you detect nitrites make sure you check on ammonia as well. Nitrates should be kept below 10 ppm in freshwater and 5 ppm in marine and reef preferably 0 ppm. **Filtration of the Aquarium** The proper function of the filter is essential. Filter inserts should be changed at least every four weeks. A high fish load may require shorter periods. Trapped particles will decompose in the filter as they would in the tank. The filter should also be cleaned once a month do not touch the bio-wheels, if present by using the water extracted from the tank during the water change. Behavioral changes are a good indicator of a potential problem. In case of fish death, smaller species can decompose quickly, resulting in ammonia and nitrite spikes, and eventually high nitrate levels. Filter floss is fairly cheap and very efficient. Start from the bottom upward and rinse out often. Do not use after the imprinted date.

Chapter 8 : How to Clean a Fish Tank (Home Aquarium Maintenance Tips)

Good aquarium maintenance practices will lead to a healthy aquatic environment and thriving fish, providing years of joy for the hobbyist. Jump to routine maintenance guide! Expensive and time-consuming problems can be prevented by spending thirty minutes on maintenance every other week.

Also, since your fish needs an environment significantly different from our own, there is some equipment which will also require care. Though the maintenance and care required for an adequate sized fish tank is not as high as for a dog or a parrot, it is still a commitment you are making, and will be necessary to provide safe and healthy accommodations for this new member of your family or household. The information below and throughout most of the First Tank Guide is for maintaining a fish tank of ten gallons or more with an appropriate filter. Small fish tanks any tank smaller than ten gallons , fish bowls , or any fish tank without a filter will require significantly more care and maintenance. If you have a small tank or bowl, please review the information on care of small fish tanks and fish bowls for details and recommendations. Housing Your new fish will require a home. Beyond just the fish tank , you should give consideration for the environmental requirements of your new pet. Does it need to be warm or cool? The fish will definitely need a filter to keep the water from becoming toxic between weekly water changes. What other equipment will your fish need? You want to do some research on the fish you are interested in keeping before you get them so that you can be sure to provide a suitable environment for them. Feeding Your fish will need food. Some fish need to be fed more often, others need to be fed less often. However, if you are using processed foods, you will probably be feeding once a day or more often. Cleaning As with any live animal, there is some cleanup necessary with your aquarium. Insufficient water changes contribute to a number of different problems for fish and for your fish tank, which can make the aquarium much less enjoyable, make the tank more work to care for, and make the environment much less healthy for your fish. Keep up with your water changes and your tank will be much more rewarding. Equipment Maintenance The aquarium equipment you have to house your fish will need some maintenance. If you keep up with this, your equipment should last a long time and continue to be effective. Check that all pumps and filters are operating at least once a day. Check that the temperature is correct in the tank at least once a day. Check that all lights are working at least once a day. Check all electrical connections and cords at least once a week. Replace any carbon in your filter regularly. In an under gravel filter system , replace the carbon at least once a week, or remove it for better filtration. In other filter systems, the carbon should be changed once every weeks. Clean other filter media regularly, or replace as necessary. For power filters and corner filters the media and water flow should be checked every couple of weeks. For other external filters, check the water flow weekly, but you can probably check the media monthly. Of course, if the filter manufacturer recommends checking more often, follow their instructions. Check the tank for leaks at least once a month. Check the stand regularly for any signs of cracks or other damage. With a little routine maintenance and care, your fish tank should be a nice addition to your home or office for a long time.

Chapter 9 : Easy Aquarium Maintenance Guidelines For Beginners

Tropical Fish, Freshwater and Saltwater is amazing choice for your aquarium. Read how to care and cure here. You'll find guide here especially beginner.

Designing and building a small ecosystem of plants and animals is a great feeling. Most people are hooked once they buy their first fish tank and they soon yearn for bigger aquariums and bigger aquariums. Sadly, for most fish keepers, it may always be a bumpy ride. It is not easy to determine which fish is best to buy, what kind of maintenance to perform as well as when to carry out the performance, the amount of food to give to fish, and when to give them and other crucial things for ensuring fish are healthy and alive. For starters, therefore, it can be nerve wrecking. There is only so much information that can one learn online and other places, however, most of this info is not reliable and contradict most of the times, so how is a beginner supposed to do? Make sure you cycle your tank before you add fish Do all the necessary steps to ensure the water conditions are right for the fish. This is something you need to do before you add the fish tank. In short, you should not buy the fish tank and fish on the same day. There is so much that goes around cycling, but it is mainly about the growth of the good organisms with your tank. These small organisms break down any waste in the tank and ensure water is as clean and healthy as possible. This will take you some ample time, and experts in the industry say you should allow the tank to run for at least seven days before you add the fish. It is intelligent to buy a cheap water testing kit to help you monitor the levels of nitrates , ammonia, nitrites as well as the pH of water. Note that nitrates, ammonia, and nitrites are simple chemical compounds that come as a result of the life cycle of the tank. They are perfect when in low levels, but can be dangerous to the life of the fish if not monitored. Therefore, adhere to the instructions of the aquarium maintenance test kit to ensure the water parameters are right. Before Buying Do Research Before you buy any fish, take your time to carry out aquarium maintenance guidelines due diligence on the fish you want. Different fishes require particular attention how you should care of them. If you thinking about betta fish, goldfish you should research how to take care of a betta fish. Do not forget to pay attention what fish tank size you are going to have. Along these lines, do not overcrowd your fish tank. You should know what fish you are purchasing and what their needs. It helps you to decide how many fish can safely live a healthy life in your fish tank. You only need a single feeding per day. Make sure that you always give food items for the type of fish you have. The best option is a great flake food, however, if the bottom feeders are many, consider the sinking pellets as well. Plenty of food can be unhealthy for the fish and can lead to disease. Fish keepers have a schedule, utilizing one or more days per week depends on when the fish are not fed. It will help to keep the tank cleaner and fish healthier. In other words, remember that what goes into a fish must come out so more you feed your fish dirtier the tank will be.