



# Freshwater Aquarium Handbook

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# Introduction

Aquarium keeping is one of America's most popular hobbies. No wonder - aquariums are decorative, relaxing, and fun. Aquariums are something the entire family can enjoy. They are educational and endlessly fascinating. For a small investment you can create a colorful underwater world right in your own living room!

The purpose of this handbook is to guide you toward a successful and rewarding hobby. Though this handbook is geared towards the beginner, there is valuable information here that will be helpful for even the most seasoned expert. We have compiled proven methods of successful aquarium management that are based on 55 years of experience and through dealing with thousands of fish hobbyists.

We hope that your aquarium will bring you many hours of enjoyment, as well as a better understanding of the beauty and diversity of aquatic life!



# Chapter 1: Selecting Equipment

## Elmer's Aquarium Master Kit

By using the proper equipment the modern aquarium requires very little maintenance. The Elmer's Master Kit Aquarium Package has been designed to include all of the necessary equipment for a successful aquarium. Each of these components has been tested to provide easy maintenance, reliability, and healthy fish. With the Elmer's Master Kit all that is required on your part is a few minutes a day to feed and enjoy your fish.

### Tank:

The tank size is entirely your choice, although it is usually best to have an idea of what kinds of fish you would like to keep in order to choose the appropriate size. The larger the volume of your tank, the more stable the water conditions will be.

Here are our 4 most popular tanks for beginners.:

- 10 Gallon – 20 x 10 x 12
- 20 Gallon – 24 x 12 x 16
- 29 Gallon – 30 x 12 x 18
- 55 Gallon - 48 x 13 x 20
- 75 Gallon 48 x 18 x 24



### Light and Cover:

Aquariums need either a plastic hood or glass cover to keep fish from jumping out and to reduce the amount of water lost to evaporation.

Lighting is recommended for viewing the full beauty of your aquatic life and is essential for keeping live plants.



#### Lighting Options

Our staff can help you choose

#### For Freshwater Community Tanks

- \* Aquamasters LED Strip
- \* Aquatop Skyaqua LED

#### For Planted Tanks (Brighter Lights)

- \* Fluval Aquasky LED
- \* Fluval Plant Spectrum LED



## Heater and Thermometer:

Invest in a reliable heater and thermometer in order to maintain appropriate water temperatures. A safe range of 74-79 °F accommodates most freshwater fish



## Outside Power Filter or Canister Filter:

One or two outside power filters per tank are needed to remove debris, odors, waste, and to keep the water crystal clear. Be careful not to buy a filter that is too small for your tank. A properly sized filter will help you maintain a healthy environment for your fish, and it will reduce the amount of partial water changes you need to do.

The AquaClear power filter has proven to be our most reliable and effective model.

Here are our suggested models per volume.

10 gal	#30
15-29 gal	#50
30-50 gal	#50-#70
55 gal	#70-#110
70-110 gal	#110



For larger tanks a Fluval canister filter is recommended in place of or in addition to a power filter. A Fluval Canister filter can be placed on the floor.

## Air Pump with air stone or biological sponge Filter:

Our Master Kits supplement your power filter with an air pump. The air pump will provide additional beneficial water circulation and oxygen exchange. You can connect the air pump to a sponge filter, an airstone, or a decorative ornament.

Picture at right shows:

1. Air pump
2. Airline tubing
3. Gang Valve to regulate air flow
4. Biological sponge filter.



## Water Conditioner:

New water should always be treated with a water conditioner such as AquaSafe. It neutralizes the chlorine and chloramine present in tap water, and helps protect the slime coating on fish. Use a water conditioner with new setups. Also add it with each partial water change.

## Biological Starter:

This will kick start your aquarium's biological filter. These products



contain millions of living beneficial bacteria which populate the filter and break down wastes. It is very helpful in the first month of operation to use SafeStart, Fritz-Zyme, Fluval Cycle or Stability to create the proper habitat for aquatic life. Our staff often refers to this product as your fish insurance.

**Net:**

Nets are used to remove debris from the aquarium and to catch fish.

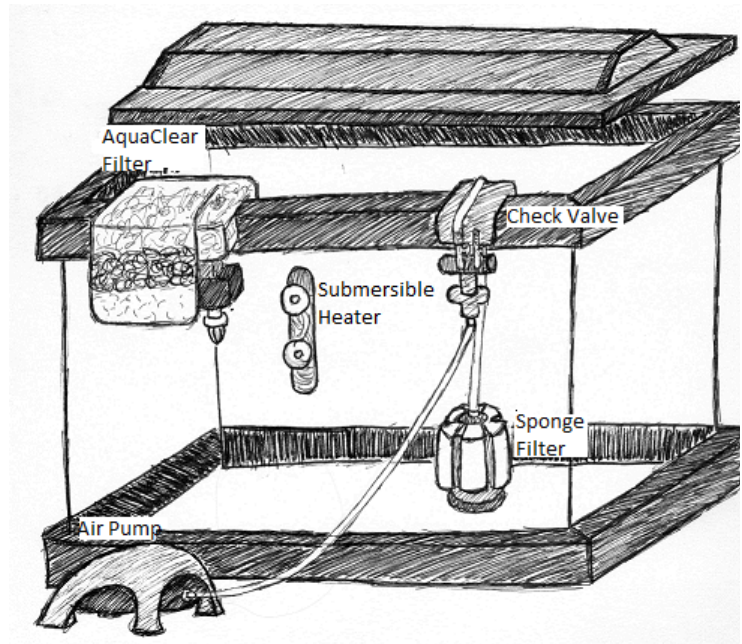


**Typical Elmers Master Kit Setup**

The picture at right shows an example of a Master Kit Setup with:

1. Power filter
2. Fluorescent Hood
3. Air pump
4. Airline Tubing
5. Biological sponge filter (you can substitute an airstone, or decoration.
6. Gang valve with check valve – to regulate air flow. It can be used to operate multiple air devices
7. Submersible Heater

When you purchase a Master Kit at Elmers we can pre-install the filter in the store.

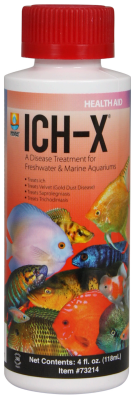








## Other Recommended Equipment

**Aquarium Stand:** Aquariums should be set on a solid level of support. An aquarium stand can make your tank look like a living piece of furniture. We carry a variety of stand colors and styles to fit your decor.



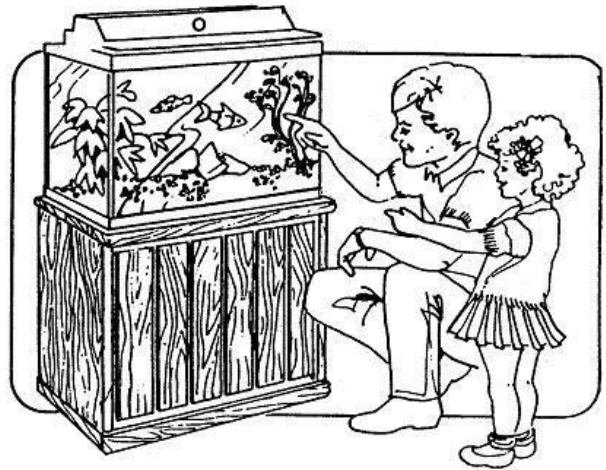
### Aquarium Accessories:

<p><b>Ick Medication</b></p>  <p>Treats Ick</p>	<p><b>Fungus Medication</b></p>  <p>Treats a variety of infections</p>	<p><b>Freshwater Master Test Kit</b></p>  <p>Test Ammonia and pH regularly</p>	<p><b>Siphon Tube</b></p>  <p>Used for partial water changes</p>
<p><b>Aquarium Gravel</b></p>  <p>Either natural or colored gravel</p>	<p><b>Neutral Regulator</b></p>  <p>Helps maintain a correct pH</p>	<p><b>Algae Scraper</b></p>  <p>Use to remove algae from the glass</p>	

# Chapter 2: Setting Up

## Setup Instructions

1. Choose the Location
  - Select a permanent location where you will be able to enjoy your aquarium
  - Avoid direct sunlight as it can cause excessive algae growth
2. Clean Your New Tank
  - New tanks should always be rinsed with water before use
  - Detergents and cleansers should not be used to clean
  - Having a few "Aquarium Use Only" buckets will simplify cleaning and maintenance
3. Rinse the Gravel
  - Aquarium gravel often contains dust that should be rinsed off before use
  - Rinsing gravel with a strainer under running water is most effective
4. Decorate Your New Tank
  - Add your own unique look to your aquarium with colorful decorations or recreate natural habitats with rocks and live plants
5. Fill with Water
  - Fill the tank within an inch of the top with tap water that is about room temperature
6. Install the Filtration System
  - Filtration systems are sold with product specific assembly instructions
  - Power (hang-on) filters should be filled with water before they are plugged in
7. Heater & Thermometer
  - Aquarium heaters are sold with product specific setup instructions
  - Place your thermometer somewhere away from the heater, where it can be easily viewed
  - Set the heater at 76 degrees
8. Condition the Water
  - Add the water conditioner according to label instructions
  - Add biological starter according to label instructions
9. Top & Lighting
  - Add the light and cover
  - Cut the back of the plastic hood or glass cover to accommodate your equipment needs



Congratulations!

Your aquarium is installed and will be ready for fish in a short while. Wait at least 24 hours before you add your first group of fish. It is not uncommon for a new tank to become cloudy a few hours after set-up. This cloudiness is temporary and the tank should clear on its own within a few days. Sometimes you will see tiny air bubbles form in the tank shortly after set-up. The air bubbles are caused by mixing hot and cold water and will go away in a short while.

## Adding Fish to Your New Tank

You should add fish slowly during the first few weeks of your tank's operation. This is a period in which bacteria will begin to grow and break down waste products (ammonia) through a process known as biological filtration. The biological starter provided in your Master Kit will help to establish biological filtration in your tank. If you add too many fish right away you run the risk of letting the ammonia level become dangerously high before your system can properly dispose of it. Therefore the best way to avoid problems during the first 6 weeks is to add fish gradually. We suggest the following procedure:

Day 1: Install the aquarium and let the filters operate overnight. Add chlorine neutralizer and a biological starter such as Fritz-Zyme #7

Day 2: You can add some fish. We suggest you add about 3-6 fish depending on the size of your tank. See chart

Day 16: Add a second group of fish.

Day 24-42 : At this point the tank should have reached the proper biological balance and ammonia levels should be zero. This is a good time to monitor your ammonia level every few days with an ammonia test kit. Once ammonia levels reach zero your biological filter is established.

**Selecting fish:** For beginners, we suggest that you start with some of the more hardy fish. Our staff will be glad to advise you regarding the hardiness and compatibility of our fish.



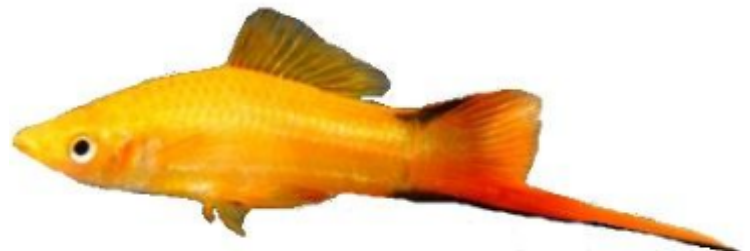
### How Many Fish?

Here is a guideline for stocking your tank.

Numbers are based on an average fish size of 1.5" and our Master Kit filtration system.

Tank Size	First Week	Total After 6 Weeks
10 Gallon	3	8-10
20 Gallon	4	10-14
30 Gallon	6	12-18
55 Gallon and up	10	15-30

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# Chapter 3: Filtration

Investing in a good filter system will assure low maintenance and healthy fish. It is always better to over-filter, rather than under-filter your aquarium. A good filter system will provide these four primary functions:

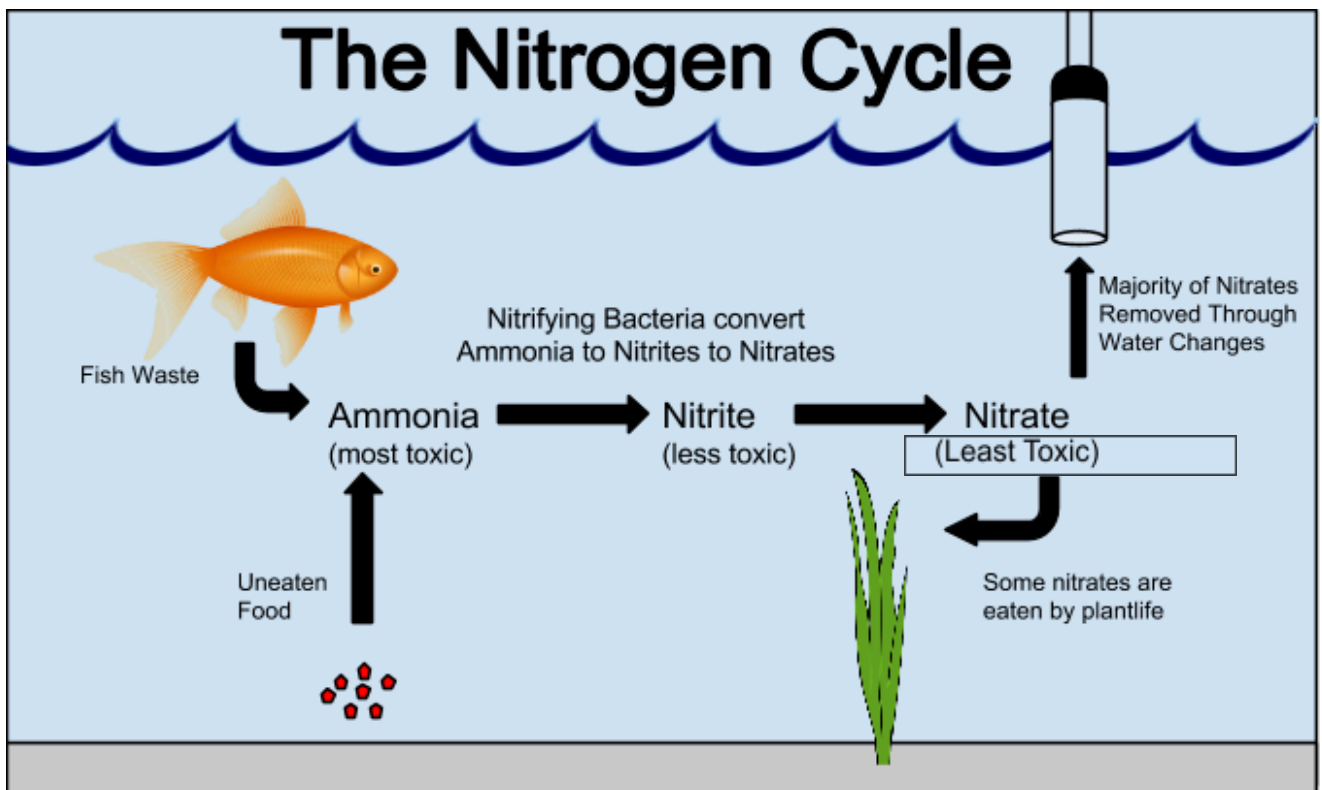
**Aeration** - Fish breathe by extracting dissolved oxygen from the water. By circulating aquarium water, a good filter will replenish the water's dissolved oxygen and release carbon dioxide into the air. Keep your filters and air pumps operating 24 hours a day.

**Mechanical Filtration** - Water is drawn through filter media which mechanically removes solid particles from aquarium water. Replace the filter media on a regular basis.

**Chemical Filtration** - Activated carbon is used to remove discolorations, odors, and other impurities in order to keep the water crystal clear. Activated carbon should be changed monthly. Chemi Pure or Chemi Pure Green are great alternatives to carbon for Planted Aquariums.

**Biological Filtration and Nitrogen Cycle** – Biological filtration is a natural process that occurs in lakes, streams and oceans. This is how aquatic ecosystems naturally decompose waste products and convert them to harmless compounds. Ammonia ( $\text{NH}_3$ ) is a substance produced from fish respiration and the decomposition of uneaten food, and fish waste. Even at low levels, ammonia is very toxic to fish and must be oxidized as quickly as it is produced. This is where the nitrifying bacteria save the day! Nitrifying bacteria convert ammonia to harmless products. These bacteria will take 4-6 weeks to fully colonize a new tank. Elmer's staff strongly recommends adding a concentrated culture of bacteria such as SafeStart or Fritz-Zyme #7 to reduce this time.

You can easily create an effective biological filter in your aquarium with a good filter system. The filter will provide a home for the beneficial bacteria to grow. Lack of adequate biological filtration can cause levels of ammonia or nitrite to become dangerous. Unfortunately this easily avoided problem is the number one killer of fish for beginners. Once the bacteria colony is established they will convert toxic ammonia into less toxic nitrites and then least toxic nitrates which are used by plants and removed through partial water changes.



# Chapter 4: Feeding

*Learn to feed your fish properly and they will reward you by being robust, colorful, and active.*

**How Often?** The average beginner community tank should be fed twice a day. If possible, small feedings more frequently is preferred. Fish which are fed small amounts 3-4 times daily often show better color and fuller bodies than fish that are fed only once a day. Adjust your feedings to fit your schedule. Occasionally missing a feeding will not harm the fish, but prolonged inadequate feeding will be detrimental to their health.



**How Much?** The best way to determine how much to feed your fish is to observe them at feeding time. Some fish will rush for the food while others may wait a little longer to feed. By taking time to observe your fish you will quickly learn their behaviors. To begin, add a small amount of food and watch them eat. We suggest you start with about 3 flakes per fish. (Never add so much food that it covers most of the surface) If all the food is consumed within a few minutes give them a bit more. Feed them as much as they will consume in 5 minutes. Remove any uneaten food after 10 minutes with a siphon or net. We recommend that only one person be responsible for feeding as to avoid over/under feeding.

## Overfeeding:

This is the most common mistake made by beginners. Overfeeding causes extra food to rot on the bottom and pollute the water. This pollution can be very harmful to your fish. Common signs of overfeeding are:

- Cloudy Water
- White mold-like growths on the gravel or decorations
- High ammonia level
- Small “gooey” pieces of debris seen when gravel surface is agitated

If you suspect there is extra food decaying in the tank, perform a partial water change by siphoning 25% of the water from the bottom of the tank. Use the siphon to remove as much debris as possible.



## Vacation Feeding:

Going on vacation shouldn't present any problems for your tank. Here are some tips about vacation feeding:

1. A healthy fish can sustain a fast of a few days. If you are going away for a day you could just leave the tank alone.
2. Vacation food blocks are available when you go away. You can also invest in an automatic feeder. We carry several battery operated automatic feeders as well as a variety of slow release vacation food blocks.
3. Adding a live plant such as Anacharis to the tank before you go can provide a good alternative to fish foods. Many fish will nibble on live plants whenever they are hungry.
4. If you choose to have someone care for your fish while you are gone be sure to pre-measure individual food portions out for them. Oftentimes, inexperienced people will overfeed fish unless the portions are carefully measured for them. Use a Dixie cup to set aside daily food portions.

# Fish Foods

Like any other animal, fish need the right amounts of protein, minerals, and vitamins to thrive. For most fish, their vibrancy is directly related to the quality and nutritional value of their food. If you have any questions about feeding, please ask. Our knowledgeable sales staff can help answer your questions and find the right food for your fish.

## Flake Food

Flakes are easy to feed and a great choice for a beginner with a community tank. Flake food contains a variety of ingredients to satisfy most fish. They typically float for a short time and then slowly sink. Our Best Sellers are  
Tetra Pro Crisp  
Fluval Bug Bites



## Pellets

Pellets come in a variety of sizes. Small pellets are great for a community tank. For larger fish such as Cichlids you can use larger pellets.



## Freeze Dried Foods

These are great supplements. Freeze-dried brine shrimp and bloodworms are most popular



## Sinking Wafers

These are great to assure your bottom dwellers are well fed.

Best Sellers:  
Hikari Algae Wafers  
Hikari Sinking Wafers



## Frozen Foods

For the most nutritional diet, treat your fish to frozen foods. We carry a wide selection of frozen foods to provide any fish with the highest quality meal



# Chapter 5: Maintenance

## Daily Maintenance

- \* Feed the fish 2-3 times a day
- \* Check filter operation
- \* Remove decaying plant leaves, or extra food with a siphon or net.
- \* Leave lights on 8-10 hours
- \* Observe the fish and enjoy

## Periodic Maintenance

- \* Scrape algae from the glass as needed.
- \* Change 20-25% of water by siphoning from the bottom every 2-3 weeks.
- \* Test pH and ammonia monthly
- \* Replace filter cartridges monthly

## Lighting:

Leave light on up to 8 hours a day so that fish receive a natural day/night cycle. If you leave the light on too long you may get unwanted algae growth.

## Heating

We suggest a temperature range of 74-79 °F (goldfish can be kept at room temp. 66-76 °F). Fish are cold blooded animals and can be weakened by fluctuating temperatures. Thermostatic heaters are designed to maintain a constant temperature

## Partial Water Changes:

**Why?** Over time various products may build-up in your aquarium. This includes nitrates, phosphates, and dissolved organics. Partial water changes are the best way to remove these. Partial water changes also help prevent your pH from slowly becoming more acidic.

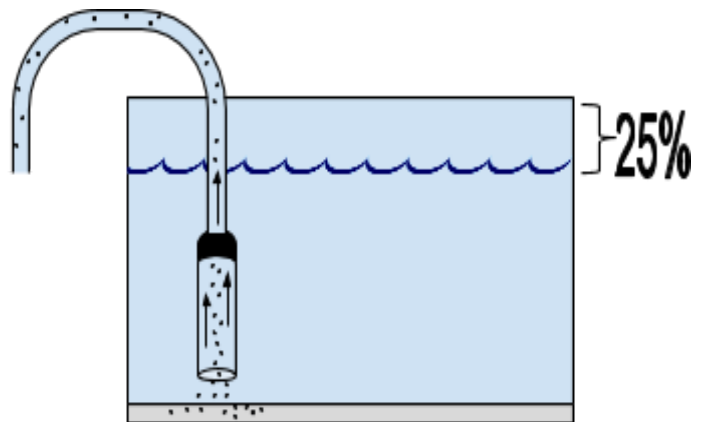
**When?** At least once a month for healthy systems

If your fish show signs of disease (fin rot, listless behavior, cloudy eyes)

If your ammonia test kit indicates the presence of ammonia

If your water is excessively cloudy

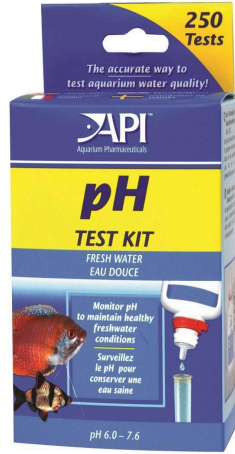
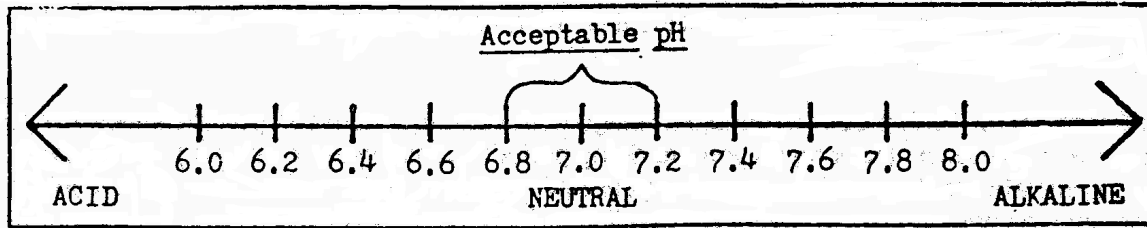
**How?** Unplug your heater and power filter. Remove your sponge filter from tank. Using a siphon, remove 20-25% of the water from the bottom of the aquarium into a clean 5 gallon bucket. Use this suction to vacuum dirt and fish waste from your gravel. Clean your power/sponge filter and replace any necessary filter media. Replace the water with tap water of the same temperature that has been treated with a water conditioner such as AquaSafe or NovAqua. Plug heater and filter back in, and reattach sponge filter to airline.



An alternative method is to use a Python Water Change System. This 25 or 50 foot syphon connects directly to your faucet and both drains and fills your aquarium. This eliminates the need to carry buckets of water during a partial water change.

## pH

We recommend that you test the pH of your water at least once a month. An accurate pH test is very simple to perform using an API pH Test Kit. Water of Western PA and surrounding areas tends to have an alkaline pH of around 7.6 with a fairly high alkalinity content. Alkalinity prevents pH from dropping quickly. Most community fish tend to be perfectly happy as long as the pH remains within a safe range of 6.8-7.6. We recommend the use of SeaChem Neutral Regulator with every water change to help maintain a safe pH



## Ammonia

Ammonia is produced from fish respiration and the decomposition of fish waste and organic matter. High ammonia levels can harm a fish's gills and is a common cause of problems in aquariums. *By using good aquarium management techniques including monthly partial water changes, proper feeding, and good biological filtration, ammonia should not pose a problem for your fish.* Testing for ammonia can help diagnose problems with your fish. The goal is for ammonia levels to be zero. Any detectable amount of ammonia should be removed through a partial water change or by dosing additional biological nitrifying bacteria. Ammonia detoxifier can be dosed in the event of an emergency to prevent fish loss.



## Oxygen and Aeration

### Gravel Maintenance

Always remove any food or plant debris with a siphon or net. Gently vacuum gravel during partial water changes to remove any decomposing organic matter. Be sure not to miss under ornaments and rocks

### Glass Maintenance



Nearly every aquarium will develop some algae, though unsightly it is not hazardous to fish and to some it's a meal. You can choose to use algae pads or scrapers to remove the algae

To limit algae growth limit the amount of light your tank receives and keep some algae eating livestock such as snails, shrimp, or plecostomus catfish.



## Complete Tank Breakdown

With proper management and quality equipment your aquarium can go indefinitely without a complete tank breakdown. We suggest you consider a complete tank breakdown if the gravel in your tank begins to look black or very dirty. If this is required more than once a year, you may suspect overfeeding or inadequate filtration. If you do a complete water change it is important not to shock the fish. Also the biological filtration will need to be re-established in the newly cleaned tank. This can be done by adding SafeStart biological starter.

# Chapter 6: Fish and Plants

## Acclimation of New Fish

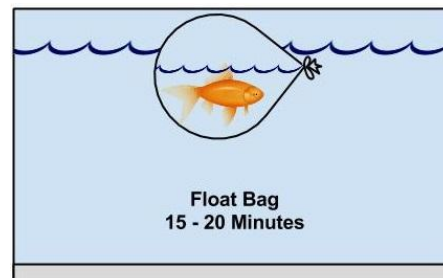
When you buy new fish, the following procedure should be used to ensure that they adjust properly to their new environment.

Take your fish home as soon as possible. Elmer's Aquarium provides plastic bags with enough air to last 4-5 hours, but the longer the fish remain in the bag, the greater the risk. Let us know if you are traveling long distances so that we can pack your fish with additional air. Avoid overheating or chilling the fish while they are in transit. Styrofoam cases are available upon request at no charge with any fish purchase.

When you get home, float the unopened bag in the aquarium for 15-20 minutes. This allows the temperatures in the bag to adjust slowly. After 20 minutes, open the bag and net the fish out of the bag. Do not pour bag water into your aquarium. Traveling is stressful for fish and they tend to produce more ammonia during this time, emptying this water into your aquarium can be hazardous.

It will take a few days for your fish to adjust to their new home. Be sure to provide hiding spots for the new fish and keep the top on, as some fish can attempt to jump out during this period.

Elmer's Staff recommends adding additional biological starters such as SafeStart when you add fish to your aquarium.



## Live Plants

Many aquarium owners derive great enjoyment out of the cultivation of aquatic plants. The decision to keep live plants, or decorate with plastic plants is entirely up to you.

### Benefits of Keeping Live Plants

- \* Natural decor for the aquarium, and they provide hiding spots for fish
- \* Provide natural water filtration by removing nitrogenous waste products
- \* Inhibit the growth of algae by competing with algae for available nutrients.
- \* Help keep water saturated with oxygen
- \* Provide spawning locations for some fish, and food for some fish

### Tips for Keeping Healthy Plants

- \* Use adequate lighting for your plants, upgrade standard lighting to more powerful plant lighting.
- \* Provide 8-12 hours of light daily, replace fluorescent bulbs after 9 months of use
- \* Perform partial water changes regularly and keep pH within safe limits.
- \* Provide a minimum of 2" of gravel or planted substrate to allow for root growth. Special plant substrates can be used to provide nutrients for plants. Do not to move plants once they are planted
- \* Dose with Flourish plant fertilizers as needed, Trim bushy or long plants as needed
- \* Some medications are harmful to plants. Be sure to carefully read any medication product before use.
- \* Certain fish like to uproot plants. Avoid plants in tanks with large cichlids such as oscars, jack dempseys, and blood parrots. Large populations of some snails can nibble on plant leaves. Our favorite snail are Nerite snails because they only eat algae and can't reproduce in freshwater.

## Community Tank Suggestions

We have put together a separate book Titled "**25 Freshwater Community Tank Suggestions**". It gives helpful information on selecting fish for 25 different types of communities. This book is available at the front counter for \$1.00.

The same information is available on our website at [www.elmersaquarium.com](http://www.elmersaquarium.com). Go to the "Freshwater Tab" and click on "Community Tank Suggestions". All 23 are there.

# Chapter 7 Problems

## Diagnosing Problems

We suggest you briefly inspect the tank daily to see if the fish are behaving normally. This section will describe the most common problems associated with home aquariums and our recommended treatment. Abnormal behavior such as excessive hiding, hovering near the top, scratching, or increased respiration can indicate the first sign of a problem. Also take a quick look for common disease symptoms such as white spots, red streaks, open sores, cloudy eyes, or white growths on fins.

## A General Disease Treatment

If you experience a problem and are not sure what to do we advise you follow this guideline:

1. Check all conditions within the tank, and correct any possible sources of problems. Check the filtering systems, temperature, and aeration. At this point we also suggest you check the pH of the water, and the ammonia level. If the ammonia level is elevated you will have to correct that.
2. Many problems are related to poor water quality. Do a partial water change of 25% by siphoning water from the bottom. Remove any decaying food or organic matter from the gravel surface. Replace with tap water of equal temperature. Add a water conditioner neutralizer to the tap water.
3. If you suspect a disease refer to the chart below as medication may be needed. If the fish have Ich you will have to medicate. If the fish has a fungus or bacterial infection other medications may help.
5. Give special attention to feeding your fish some quality foods in order to build their resistance to disease. Be careful not to overfeed because often when fish are ill they will eat less.
6. Repeat the partial water change daily for at least 3 days. Add more medication according to label directions.

## Problem Chart

Problem	Symptoms
<b>Ich</b>	small white spots on the fin and body. If left untreated, spots will spread. Fish may scratch against rocks, and they will become susceptible to secondary infections <b>Solution:</b> Use Ich medication such as Ich-X, "API Super Ich Cure" It is helpful to raise the temperature to 82 degrees during the treatment period.
<b>Bacterial Infection or Fungal Infection</b>	Most fish have a good natural resistance to bacterial infections, and a healthy fish will often be able to resist an infection on its own. For this reason not all bacterial infections are contagious. Often only the weaker, older, and most susceptible fish will succumb. The best way to prevent bacterial infections is to feed quality foods and maintain clean tank water to promote healthy immune systems among your fish.  <b>Symptoms:</b> any of the following: open sores, sunken belly, bulging eye (popeye) fin rot, mouth fungus, red streaks, white film  <b>Fungus</b> may cause White fuzzy growth on fins or body. Sometimes caused by a wound  <b>Solution: Any of the following</b> Neoplex, Metroplex, Paraguard, Polyguard, Sulfaplex
<b>Overfeeding</b>	This is a common problem experienced by beginners. <b>Symptoms:</b> Cloudy water, white mold-like growths on rocks, plants. "Goopy" debris in gravel. Make sure the fish eats all the food within 10 minutes. Remove any extra food with a net. Do a partial water change by siphoning from the bottom.

<p><b>High Ammonia Level</b></p>	<p>High ammonia can cause problems, and unfortunately it is one of the most common killers of aquarium fish. It is easily prevented by proper biological filtration and good practices. Everyone should own an ammonia test kit and test for ammonia anytime you lose a fish.</p> <p><b>Symptoms:</b> fish act listless, dart about, excessive hiding or gill movement. If levels get too high fish will die.</p> <p><b>Solution:</b> Test ammonia level. Do a partial water change. Consider upgrading the filter to assure adequate biological filtration. Products that help remove ammonia include “Amquel, Ammonia Pads and AquaClear ZeoCarb bag in filter</p>
<p><b>High Ammonia Level in New Tanks</b></p>	<p>Prevent high ammonia levels in tanks that are less than 4 weeks old by gradually adding fish. Also use a biological starter to introduce beneficial microbes that break down ammonia.</p> <p><b>Symptoms:</b> Ammonia readings are detected with a test kit.</p> <p><b>Solution:</b> Introduce a biological starter “Fritz-Zyme, or Stability”. Do a partial water change. Do not add new fish until ammonia reads zero. Review the filtration system to assure it is adequate for fish load.</p>
<p><b>Cloudy Water</b></p>	<p><b>Symptoms:</b> Water is cloudy or hazy. This is typically caused by a bacterial bloom</p> <p><b>Solution:</b> Do a partial water change. Add fresh activated carbon to the filter. Remove any extra food from the tank. Use a clearing aid such as “Acruel-E or “Clear Magic”. Review filtration system to assure it is adequate for fish load.</p>
<p><b>Non-Compatible Tank Mates</b></p>	<p><b>Symptoms:</b> fish hide in corners, torn fins, fish lock jaws, scrapes or cuts on the body.</p> <p><b>Solution:</b> Remove incompatible fish to another tank. Our staff can help you choose fish for your tank.</p>
<p><b>Excessive Green Algae</b></p>	<p><b>Solution:</b> Excessive algae is due to excessive light, or excessive nutrients in the water. Control light by avoiding sunlight, leave lights on no more that 8-10 hours per day, and provide a background. Control nutrients by good management including partial water changes, proper feeding and good filtration. Live plants control algae by competing for available nutrients. Also add some livestock that eat algae such as plecostomus cats, or nerite snails.</p>
<p><b>Power Failure</b></p>	<p><b>Solution:</b> Most tanks can go a few hours without power before a problem occurs. If fish begin to come to the surface then low oxygen levels are suspected. We sell battery operated air pumps for this purpose. If you do not have a battery pump, agitate the surface of the water to add oxygen.</p>



# About Elmer's Aquarium

**Rewards Card:** Be sure to sign up for your free rewards card. We give an automatic 3% discount on all livestock. Each time you make a purchase let us scan your rewards card, or just give us your phone number and we will credit your account.

**Our Fish Guarantee Policy:** We will give ½ credit on any fish that dies within 14 days of purchase. Please save your receipt. Or if you have an Elmer's Rewards Card, we can find your receipt with your last name or phone number.

**Aquarium Installation and Maintenance:** We can provide complete installation at your home or office. We also offer aquarium maintenance services for freshwater aquariums within 30 minutes drive from our store. Elmer's Aquarium Service Department is now the longest established aquarium service department in Western Pennsylvania. We currently service over 200 aquariums throughout Western Pennsylvania.

**Our Fish Department:** Elmer's is not just another fish store:

- 54 years of experience has enabled us to compile extensive knowledge of tropical fish and we are always willing to share that knowledge to assist you. Please ask about our free informational handouts to take home with you.
- All tanks are inspected daily and any tank found unsuitable for sale is marked so that our sales staff will not sell fish from it.
- While in the store the fish are fed a variety of quality foods including frozen mysis shrimp in order to improve their health and disease resistance.
- New Fish are shipped weekly from the nation's best suppliers. Direct shipments reduce problems due to shipping.
- Our weekly specials comprise the best fish our suppliers have to offer.
- Volume buying and reduced freight rates enables us to maintain very competitive pricing on all fish.

**Pricing:** We hope that you will compare our prices. Our store-wide pricing structure and volume buying keep prices on hundreds of items well below average retail prices. We will match or beat any competitor's price.

**Family Owned:** Elmer's Aquarium and Pet Center is family owned and operated. We have been at this same location since we opened the doors in 1969. Our goal has always been to provide you with the knowledge and equipment for an enjoyable and successful aquarium.



4005 William Penn Hwy      Mon-Sat    10:00-7:00  
Monroeville, Pa. 15146      Sunday      12:00-5:00

Phone:(412) 372-6535

Email: [contactelmers@gmail.com](mailto:contactelmers@gmail.com)

Visit us online at [www.elmersaquarium.com](http://www.elmersaquarium.com) and  
like use on Facebook

## How To Find Us:

**From PA Turnpike:** We are just 1 mile from the turnpike exit. Take PA Turnpike exit 57. At the exit follow signs for Business Rt. 22 Monroeville (west). Stay on Business Rt. 22 west (William Penn Hwy) for 1 mile. We are on the right hand side across from Wendy's.

**From Pittsburgh:** We are about 30 minutes from downtown Pittsburgh. Take Interstate 376 East. Take exit 84A onto PA-48 South. Go 250 ft. At the light, turn right and take Business Route 22 East (William Penn Hwy). Continue .6 miles. We will be on the right across from Wendy's.