

Algae

What is Algae?

Algae should be thought of as a type of simple plant that develops when water and light are present. Algae is not harmful to an aquarium but in most cases it is considered unsightly and customers want to control or eliminate it.

What causes Algae to grow?

For algae to grow it needs light. Both the aquarium and room light can cause it to grow. If your tank is getting more than 10 hours of light a day you may notice green algae starting to grow. Warm water and “nitrates” (which build up if you don't do regular water changes) will cause algae to grow quickly. Also if phosphates are present, they will promote algae growth.

How to control Algae:

- 1) Control the light received by the aquarium. The less light your tank gets, the less likely it is you will develop an algae problem.
- 2) Regular water changes. Algae uses excess food and waste for fertilizer. By doing regular water changes you will reduce the amount of “food” the algae has.
- 3) Live plants can also control algae.
- 4) Certain fish are “Algae Eaters” and will naturally help to control growth.
- 5) Many chemicals are available to help algae from growing. These chemicals are “inhibitors” and will prevent some algae from starting to grow, but will not eliminate the algae after it has started.
- 6) You may want to purchase a scraper, pad, or algae magnet to remove algae from the sides of the aquarium. Don't use anything from a supermarket to clean your tank as it may contain soaps or chemicals harmful to your fish!

Algae blooms or green water problems

An algae bloom is a suspended algae that makes the water green but does not grow on glass or ornaments. If this happens to your tank the best way to get rid of it is by “starving” the Algae. Cover the tank with something to block light (like newspaper) for up to 48 hours. Only feed every other day during this time. After 48 hours, do a 1/3-water change and add an algae reducing chemical. In some cases the water change may have to be repeated. For more specifics, please contact the store.

GREEN ALGAE IS CAUSED BY TOO MUCH LIGHT

- Reduce the amount of light.
- Do Regular Water Changes
- Don't Overfeed
- Get Algae Eating Fish



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