

# Starting a New Aquarium

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## **Day 1: Set-Up**

A) Adjust the water temperature to 76-80 degrees. Monitor to make sure this stays stable for 24 hours.

B) Add water conditioner to dechlorinate. Add Nutrafin Cycle to boost your beneficial bacteria. (Cycle not required, but strongly recommended.)

C) Confirm filter and other equipment are functioning as intended.

## **Day 3: Adding Starter Fish**

A) Limit fish purchases. Start with 2-4 fish every 2 weeks.

B) Choose hardy fish like Zebra Danios

## **Day 4-12**

A) Begin light feedings. Feed every other day for the first month.

B) Observe for stress (rapid breathing, lethargy, clamped fins.)

## **Day 14**

Recommended water change, 1/3 water change with a gravel cleaner.

## **Day 15+**

If all is well in the tank, new fish can be added using the 2-4 fish rule listed above. Remember never to have more than an inch of fish per gallon of water.

## **Day 30**

A) Do a 1/3 water change with a gravel cleaner.

B) Change carbon filter cartridges.

## **Important Notes:**

The first 4-6 weeks a tank is establishing and when most people experience problems. Hopefully this sheet can help you avoid the common pitfalls. If you do happen to run into trouble please feel free to contact the store. We are always glad to do free water tests to help you determine the issue.

## **Remember:**

- Do not overfeed!!!
- Buy fish in small quantities.
- Have your water tested for ammonia
- Observe your fish for stress
- Have fun & enjoy!



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