

Filling Your Aquarium



Before you start filling the aquarium we recommend that you wipe the inside of the aquarium with a clean cloth and lukewarm water. Use a new and unused cloth and bucket. It is important that no detergents or grease cleaners are used or have ever been used with the cloth or bucket that you use.

Next its time to fill the bottom of your aquarium with the substrate of your choice. This could be gravel or sand. Make sure that you buy only special aquarium types as others may affect the water quality. Ensure the substrate is thoroughly rinsed in clear running water before you add it to the aquarium. For this purpose put some of the substrate in a bucket and add plenty of water, stirring it with your hand all the time. Let the substrate settle, empty the dirty water out and repeat this process until the water stays fairly clear. (Tip: Don't put the dirty water down your kitchen drain. The sand can easily block it up!) Then carefully add the substrate to the aquarium by adding a handful at a time.

When it comes to choosing your décor, there are many different options available nowadays. The décor can be made up of resin ornaments, natural stones, tree roots and artificial plants all of which need a quick wash in some warm water before you add them to the aquarium. If you use natural rocks and tree roots make sure they come from an aquatic shop because they are fit for the purpose, whereas the rocks and tree roots you picked up from your garden will affect the water quality and could add harmful chemicals to the aquarium.

If you want to add plants to your aquascape you can use a mixture of real and artificial plants. The natural plants will help to maintain the natural balance in the aquarium by helping to absorb excess nitrates. The artificial plants will always look good because they don't perish and do not get eaten by the fish. There is a wide variety of plastic and silk plants available which will look hardly different to 'the real thing'.