

# Preparing your Aquarium For Fish



Once your aquarium has been filled with water and switched on, you now need to add some water treatment. The water treatment adds the necessary bacteria for the aquarium's biological balance. It is essential that these bacteria are introduced to your aquarium. They will help to establish a natural balance and maintain a good water quality. Over the next few weeks check temperature, ensure that there is a good water circulation around the aquarium by adjusting the flow direction of moving airstones and check the filter is working.

Once the bacterial starter treatment has been added add a few flakes of food. This will help the filter to develop until your fish arrive. We strongly recommend that the aquarium is left to run for the bacteria to establish for 2-3 weeks before adding the first small introduction of fish.

## Water Quality

Regularly, perhaps daily, carry out water quality checks, ideally AMMONIA content, NITRITE content, NITRATE content and pH. When you have readings of zero for Ammonia and Nitrite and a pH reading suitable for the fish you wish to keep then it is time to introduce some fish. This should be done slowly, both in terms of introducing each fish and also slowly introducing numbers of 1-2 cold water fish or 4-6 tropical fish, depending on the size of your aquarium.

On introduction of the fish, the nitrite and ammonia levels will significantly increase. The bacteria in the filter must be given time to catch up with their increased resources. Further fish should **NOT** be introduced until the nitrite and ammonia levels have returned to zero. The time this takes will depend on many factors, but you should expect to wait at least a week. Add small numbers each time and never add double what you already have.

## The Final Aquarium

With attention and careful water quality monitoring you should have the aquarium you dreamed of within a couple of months or so... depending on your dream!