



### **Do's and Don'ts for setting up a Fresh or Salt Water Aquariums**

With the right combination of basic knowledge and quality equipment, anyone can have a successful fresh water or salt water aquarium. From a small basic fresh water tank with just a few cichlids to the most advanced high-end custom reef aquarium with dozens of live corals, all successful aquariums share many of the same principles.

A few Do's and Don'ts when starting an aquarium.

- Do plan your aquarium ahead of the purchase of your aquarium.
- Do research the hobby to gain a basic knowledge of equipment and methods before making the big purchase.
- Do make sure that the aquarium is the right size for your planned inhabitants when fully grown.
- Do take your time. It's a mistake to add fish or corals too quickly.
- Don't use unfiltered tap water.
- Do make sure that your equipment is adequate for your installation and tank size
- Do make sure that your choice of substrate (sand and gravel) is right for your set-up.
- Do check that your aquarium location is OK. Not near a window or in a draft.
- Do regularly test the water and keep a record of the results.
- Don't purchase unhealthy or poorly conditioned animals. Use a reputable supplier.
- Do plan your purchases ahead. Buying on impulse can lead to problems.
- Do research your fish before purchase to ensure that they are compatible and will not out grow your tank.
- Don't add newly acquired fish to an established tank without quarantining them first.
- Don't add medications to the tank without checking that they are compatible with all of the inhabitants, including invertebrates.
- Do clean and maintain your tank regularly to prevent problems with the health of your aquarium and the efficiency of your filtration system.
- Don't add uncured live rock to an established aquarium.
- Do make sure you have adequate lighting before buying corals and other stock that need light for photosynthesis.

#### Some Recommended Handbooks

1. Simon & Schuster's Complete Guide to Freshwater and Marine Aquariums – ISBN 0-671 22809-9
2. The Complete Aquarium Encyclopedia of Tropical Freshwater Fish – ISBN 1 555231 795 8
3. The Interpet Bumper Guide to Tropical Cichlids – ISBN 1 902389

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