

Aquarium Maintenance Checklist

A routine aquarium upkeep checklist split into daily, weekly and monthly tasks for fishkeepers.

Daily Tasks

- ☐ Check water temperature and heater function
- ☐ Observe each fish for normal behavior and appetite
- ☐ Feed an appropriate amount and remove uneaten food
- ☐ Confirm filter and pump are running normally
- ☐ Check the water level and top up evaporation if needed

Weekly Tasks

- ☐ Test ammonia, nitrite, nitrate and pH
- ☐ Perform a partial water change
 - Use dechlorinated, temperature-matched water
- ☐ Vacuum the substrate to remove waste
- ☐ Wipe algae from the glass
- ☐ Record test results to track trends

Filter & Equipment Care

- ☐ Check filter flow and clean intake if reduced
- ☐ Rinse mechanical media in old tank water
- ☐ Inspect heater, lights and air pump for faults
- ☐ Replace mechanical media as needed, staggering changes
 - Never replace all media at once or you lose beneficial bacteria

Monthly Deep Clean

- ☐ Do a larger water change if test results call for it
- ☐ Clean the glass canopy, lid and light fixture
- ☐ Trim live plants and remove dead leaves
- ☐ Clean exterior glass and the stand
- ☐ Check tubing, seals and connections for leaks

Supplies to Keep on Hand

- ☐ Water test kit and dechlorinator
- ☐ Gravel vacuum and clean buckets
- ☐ Algae scraper or magnet
- ☐ Spare filter media and a backup heater
- ☐ Fish-safe cleaning cloths and a thermometer