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