



Wet Pets N Critters

Starting Your Aquarium

Day 1: Setting Up Your Aquarium

- Adjust the water temperature to **76–80 degrees** Fahrenheit. Keep it in this range for at least 24 hours.
 - **Dechlorinate** and condition the water with the recommended aquarium products.
 - Set up all equipment and let the **filter run for 24 hours** to ensure everything is working properly.
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Day 2–3: Add Starter Fish

- Add **2 to 4 hardy fish per 10 gallons** of water. (Limit fish purchases to small amounts every 10–14 days.)
 - **Optional:** Add live plants.
 - Do **not feed** your fish on the day they are introduced to the tank.
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Day 2–12: Light Feeding and Observation

- Begin feeding your fish **every other day**, once per day, for the first month.
 - Watch for signs of stress:
 - Rapid breathing
 - Lethargy
 - Clamped fins
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Day 14: First Water Change

- Perform a **one-third water change** using a **gravel vacuum**.
- Replace with **RO (reverse osmosis) water**.

Day 15 and Beyond: Add More Fish (Optional)

- Add more fish if desired, using the same guideline:
 - **2 to 4 fish per 10 gallons** OR
 - **2 inches of fish per gallon of water.**
- Continue enjoying your fish while watching for signs of stress.

Day 15–30: Monitor and Test

- Observe your fish daily for signs of stress or illness.
- Have your water tested at least once a month for **ammonia** levels.

Day 30: Routine Cleaning

- Perform a **one-third to one-half water change** using a gravel vacuum.
- Replace **filter cartridges**.
- Test your water **one week after the water change**.

Important Notes

- The **first 4–6 weeks** of setting up a new tank is when most issues arise. This guide is designed to help you through this important period.
- By following these steps, you'll set up a healthy, thriving aquarium.

Remember

- Do not overfeed your fish.
- Add fish gradually and in small quantities.
- Have your water tested regularly for ammonia.
- Watch your fish for signs of stress.
- Consider using RO water in your aquarium for best results.

Enjoy your new aquarium and have fun!