



Freshwater Start Up Check List

You will need:

- Tank Kit (tank, filter, light, heater, net, thermometer)
- Dechlorinator
- Bacteria Starter
- Decorations, gravel, plants (real or plastic), bubble wand
- Fish Food
- Test strips

After tank set up, add a small number of fish.

Add bacteria and new fish at the same time.

3 options:

1. If starting with dechlorinated water without added bacteria, feed the fish. Nitrogen cycle takes for 6-8 weeks to complete. Do periodic water tests during this time period to see when more fish can be added safely.
2. If adding fish and bacteria at same time, test water after 1-2 weeks to see when it's safe to add more fish.
3. If cycled water (water from an established tank) is used, fish can be added immediately. Still need to add only a couple of fish at a time.

Test the water. Once ammonia and nitrite levels are zero, you can gradually add more fish.

Basic Guideline: Add 1 inch fish per gallon water.

Once you have nitrate in your system, it's time to do weekly 10-20% water change depending on bio-load.