

Set Up and Operating Instructions

VT 2560

Free Standing Venturi Protein Skimmer

Warning: for versatility and cleaning purposes, we do not recommend the use of any type of bonding agents or curing compounds (i.e. glue, solvent, cement, silicone, etc.) to assemble protein skimmer plumbing or parts. Doing so could void the product warranty. A good snug fit is usually all that is necessary to prevent leakage. If you cannot achieve a tight fit, and you so choose to seal the plumbing pipe or fittings with glue, be certain that all parts are positioned properly, because once the parts are bonded, they can no longer be dismantled or cleaned properly without permanent damage occurring.

Note 1: Almost every installation will be different depending on the particular set-up that you intend to use this product. The plumbing parts included with this skimmer model #, are basic connection parts only. Additional plumbing parts may be needed depending on your particular set up. Only (CPVC) Chlorinated Polyvinyl Chloride pipe and fittings is used. This type ½” and ¾” CPVC pipe and fittings can be found at any local hardware store.

Note 2: As each installation is different, we do not include a water pump. You may not need a dedicated water pump. You may already have a strong water pump available with a reserve that will power this skimmer from a return line manifold. We recommend that you utilize a water pump source that *provides reserve pressure* equivalent to 900 to 1000 liters (200 to 230 GPH)

Note 3: Regular power heads may have a high flow rating, yet they do not provide the pressure needed to power a venturi protein skimmer. So if you choose to use a dedicated water pump, take this into consideration before you make a water pump purchase.

Note 4: Due to the short height of this model protein skimmer, it is recommended to utilize the Aqua-Link 2565 Hang-on conversion kit where ever possible. Using this kit, allows the 2560 protein skimmer to be *securely* fastened and leveled properly, at a pre-determined drainage height when hung on a refugium, wet/dry filter sump, or an aquarium. It also provides additional plumbing parts to more closely complete this type of set up.

Note 5: All loose plumbing parts supplied, are labeled to be connected in sequence. Intake parts are numbered (1,2,3 etc.) and exhaust parts are lettered. (A, B, C, etc.)

1. To begin, carefully remove the protein skimmer from the packaging.
2. Verify all parts and inspect for damage.
 - a. Main body protein skimmer reaction chamber with attached base.
 - b. Removable skimmer collection cup with vented lid.
 - c. Airline 12” with ridged connectors.
 - d. Water intake valve (black).
 - e. Basic ¾” CPVC water exhaust pipe and fittings.
 - i. (1) 90 degree, adjustable exhausts fitting with rubber O-ring seal. (Pre-inserted in exhaust riser).
 - ii. (1) Tee fitting.
 - iii. (2) 3-1/4” extension exhaust drain pipe.
 - iv. (1) 2” breather pipe.
3. Rinse all parts with fresh tap water to remove any residue from the assembly process.
4. Place the protein skimmer in a secure, undisturbed, location, in close proximity to a sump source where aquarium water can be extracted and freely drained back into. (Please refer to note 4).
5. With the water pump off, hook up the black water intake valve in the “OFF” position, to a water pump source. (Please refer to notes 2 & 3)
6. Insert the other end of the black water valve securely into the ½” CPVC water intake fitting on the side of the skimmer venturi block.
7. Attach a 3-1/4” CPVC extension drain pipe “A” horizontally into the ¾” 90 degree fitting “A” located in the riser exhaust tube on the side of the skimmer. Notice that this exhaust tube will rotate direction approximately 190 degrees. (Please refer to note 5)
8. Rotate the water exhaust toward, and to drain into the water sump, or the aquarium (whichever applies).

9. Connect the other 3-1/4" CPVC drain pipe "C" in a straight line into one end of the CPVC TEE fitting "C" and the 2" long breather pipe "D" in a straight line into the other end of the CPVC TEE fitting "D".
10. Connect the 90 degree portion of the TEE "B" to the 3-1/4" CPVC extension drain pipe "B" extending from the skimmer making sure the shorter breather pipe is pointing up and the longer pipe is pointing downward to drain into the sump or aquarium.
11. Insert the straight ridged end of the 12" airline into the hole in the top of the venturi block.
12. Insert the 90 degree ridged end of the 12" airline through the rubber grommet in the top of the collection cup lid.
13. Place the lid on the collection cup.
14. Insert the collection cup into the narrow reaction riser tube portion of the protein skimmer.
15. Double check that all connections are tight and in place.
16. Pinch the airline closed and lightly turn on the water intake valve until water just begins to exit through the exhaust drain pipe making a mental note of the water level in the narrow reaction riser tube.
17. Let the pinch out of the airline. Air will begin to mix with the water in the reaction chamber.
18. Closely monitor how high the WATER level rises in the narrow reaction riser tube. Pay no attention to the foam level at this point. The WATER level should not rise any higher than the lower portion of the skimmer cup sleeve.
19. If the air bubbles are carrying clear water into the collection cup, the water level setting is too high and it can be lowered by turning down the water intake valve.
20. Monitor closely over the next couple of hours making sure it is not adjusted running too high.
At this point, be patient!!! Allow ample time for the foam to form & rise through the lift tube. This can occur in as little as 1 hour in a seasoned aquarium or it can take several days to prime itself in a newer aquarium depending on how much protein is actually in the aquarium. When foam is first evident it will appear light brown in color and very dry looking. It will then liquefy into a dark brown or black substance and fall into the collection cup.
NOTE 5: If a clear yellow liquid is present in the collection cup, lower the flow rate of the water or lightly restrict the air intake to lower the water level in the reaction riser tube.
21. When the collection cup is 3/4 full, simply remove the cup and lid, discard the contents, and return to the skimmer. You can clean the cup if you choose, however doing so will temporarily slow the effectiveness of the skimmer until it re-primed itself with more gunk.
22. For your convenience, an overflow tube is built into the bottom of the collection cup where a 3/8" vinyl hose can be installed so excessive proteins can drain into a larger container.
23. You will find that the more dark gunk that is present in the skimmer itself, the better, the overall skimmer will perform, however you may also notice an undesirable odor. All Aqua-link venturi protein skimmers recycle air from the skimmer cup to reduce the odor but if it becomes excessive you may consider Aqua-Link part # 2516 Ozone carbon cartridge that retrofits the protein skimmer collection cup designed to remove such odors.