

FISH ARRIVAL GUIDE - Part 4

Now that you have your aquarium set up and have introduced your fish, what's the best way to maintain your tank and keep your fish thriving?

This fish arrival guide will cover basic tank maintenance and what to do if one of the many common fish illnesses strikes.

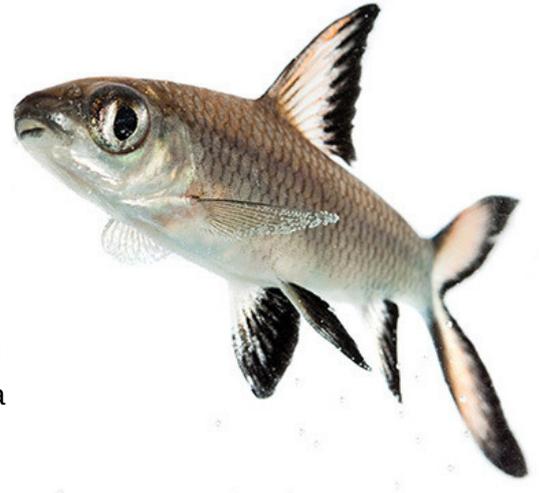
TANK MAINTENANCE

How can I maintain my fish tank?

Ideally, once your tank is up and running, you should test your water conditions once a week to identify any water quality issues early.

In a cycled and filtered tank size of 20L or above, a weekly water change of 15-25% is recommended. A water conditioner should be added during each water change. During the water change it's a good idea to use a gravel vacuum to clean any signs of detritus on the substrate to help keep your tank clean.

Your water change and tank cleaning kit should include a bucket (used only for your aquariums and never any soap or chemicals), a fish net, a gravel vacuum, water testing kit and water conditioner. If you have live plants, you may also need some long scissors (for plant maintenance) and something to scrub away excess algae.



COMMON FISH ILLNESSES

How do I treat a sick fish?



In addition to tank and water maintenance, you should keep a careful eye on your fish in case they become sick.

Some of the more common illnesses and treatments are outlined below. In many cases, prevention or early treatment is key in successfully treating your fish.

How Do I Treat Ammonia Poisoning?

Symptoms: Lethargy or floating at the bottom of the tank, gasping at the water surface or inflamed gills, lethargy, loss of appetite, red streaks and inflamed eyes.

Suggested Treatment/Prevention: Regular water changes with conditioner and tank maintenance.

How Do I Treat Dropsy?

Symptoms: Swollen body, abdomen and belly, lesions on the skin, bulging eyes, ulcers, lethargy, unbalanced swimming

Suggested Treatment/Prevention: Very difficult to cure - euthanasia is often advised. If caught very early, quarantine your fish and add one teaspoon of salt per 3.5 litres. Feed high quality food and treat with antibiotics.



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How Do I Treat Fin Rot?

Symptoms: Fins appear frayed or inflamed and may become white or dull

Suggested Treatment/Prevention: Avoid overcrowding your tank and ensure high quality food and water. Easily treated with anti-bacterial medicine and water changes.

How Do I Treat Ich/Ick?

Symptoms: White spots on the body of your fish

Suggested Treatment/Prevention: Quarantine the affected fish and use ich medication. Daily water changes should be performed for the ich-affected fish.

How Do I Treat Swim Bladder Disorder?

Symptoms: Your fish may sink, float upside down or experience buoyancy, swimming or balance problems.

Suggested Treatment/Prevention: Fast your fish for 2-3 days, as this disorder can be caused by overeating. Cooked, skinned peas can be fed after fasting to aid in recovery



Remember!

Prevention is better than trying to treat sick fish!

Many common fish illnesses can be avoid by maintaining regular water changes, conducting scheduled water tests, taking care not to overfeed and regularly cleaning excess waste.

ABOUT PETWAVE

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AQUARIUM GUIDES

Our Aquarium Guides are here to guide you and give you the inside scoop on taking care of your fish and maintaining your aquarium! Check out the rest of the series below:

Part 1: [Fish Arrival Guide](#)

Part 2: [Aquarium Parameters](#)

Part 3: [Fish Introductions](#) and [Fish Quarantine](#)

Part 4: [Tank Maintenance](#) and [Common Fish Illnesses](#)



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