

Aquarium Set-up

Before you decide to move a tank or set up a new one, learn what you can about the water quality at your destination. Does the water come from a well or does the city provide water from a common source (may be a common well)? Is the water processed? Does the processing involve a softener or the addition of chlorides or fluorides?

Steps in moving an aquarium

1. Leave the fish in the old tank until the new is fully ready.
2. Make sure the new aquarium has been washed only with bio-safe detergents or that the rinsing has been sufficient to eliminate toxins.
3. Thoroughly rinsed gravel, filters, air-stones, thermometers, heaters and other decorations and accessories should be placed in the new aquarium first (gently, no dumping).
4. Fill the aquarium to within a couple inches of the top (leave room for some transfer of water from the old aquarium).
5. Let everything sit for at least a day. Filters and air-stones should run during this period.
6. Check that temperature, pH and other general water qualities are close to the same as the old tank.
7. Add contact information to the outside of the aquarium. Who needs to be contacted if the aquarium starts to leak or if there are health issues?
8. Add old water to inoculate the new tank with bacteria.
9. Fish from the old tank may be moved to a bucket or other container for no longer than one hour. Choose a container that floats easily on the surface of the new aquarium. If numerous fish are to be moved, use more than one container so that each floats easily.
10. Add aged new water from the new tank to the transport container where the fish are. The volume added at one time should not exceed 10 percent of the total volume.
11. Set the fish container in the new aquarium so that it floats at the top.
12. Continue adding new water gradually to the fish container until it no longer floats. This process should take several hours and fish condition should be monitored continuously.
13. When the fish container no longer floats, gently decant the fish into the new aquarium.

14. Monitor fish condition hourly for at least a day, sleeping only fitfully.