

Tank mate compatibility is crucial to a successful and healthy aquarium. Incompatible species will increase stress in the tank which could result in disease and considerable loss. Use the chart as a guideline when selecting fish and please read this entire guide before making your fish selection.

Remember, no guarantees can be made about the compatibility or incompatibility of any particular species of fish. Also, particular species within a group of fish vary in temperament and may not correspond with our guideline.

New Arrival Acclimation Guide

The purpose of acclimation is simple: the water from the store that the fish are packaged in has different water parameters such as temperature, pH, etc. than your aquariums at home.

Fish, and especially invertebrates, are very sensitive to even minor changes in these parameters, so proper acclimation is the key to ensuring their successful relocation.

The acclimation process should never be rushed or take too long (generally takes one hour). Also, remember to keep your aquarium lights off for at least four hours after the specimens are introduced into the aquarium to help them further adjust.

Though not a requirement a quarantine tank is a great idea, it's highly recommended that all aquatic life be quarantined in a separate aquarium for a period of two weeks to reduce the possibility of introducing diseases and parasites into your aquarium and to ensure they are accepting food, eating properly, and are in optimum health before their final transition to your main display.

Floating Method

- Turn off aquarium lights.
- Float the sealed bag in the aquarium for 15 minutes. This step allows the water in the bag to adjust slowly to the temperature in the aquarium, while maintaining a high level of dissolved oxygen.
- After floating the sealed bag for 15 minutes, open the bag and roll the top edge of the bag down one inch to create an air pocket within the lip of the bag. This will enable the bag to float on the surface of the water.
- Step 5, add 1/2 cup of your aquarium water to the bag.
- Repeat step 5 every 10 minutes until the shipping bag is full.
- Net aquatic life from the bag and release into the aquarium.
- Remove the filled bag from the aquarium and discard the water. Never release the outside water directly into the aquarium.

Introducing New Fish into Your Aquarium

Building and maintaining a successful aquarium depends largely on knowing and following best-of-practice procedures based on the collected experience of experts and enthusiasts.

After outfitting your tank with the necessary equipment to establish the optimal environment for your aquaria, the next step toward success is selecting the species that are compatible with one another.

Our Compatibility Chart on page one will help you select new fish that are most likely to successfully co-exist with established tankmates. Understand that the chart is a guide only and that fish, like people, are individuals with distinct "personalities". A particular fish may react differently than what is indicated in the chart when exposed to an unfamiliar environment.

In terms of compatibility, remember that the larger the aquarium, the easier it will be to mix fish with different behaviors. Many species are very territorial, and even more passive fish can exhibit territorial behavior if you try to maintain too many fish in an inappropriately sized aquarium. Also, a fish's behavior will change the longer it is kept in captivity. It is advisable to add smaller, more passive fish first, gradually working up to larger, more territorial fish.

Introducing New Fish

Correctly introducing new fish to your aquarium is important not only for the health of the new fish, but for your existing fish as well. When incompatible fish are added to an aquarium, the weakest fish will be stressed, which could result in disease that affects all of the inhabitants.

After following the step-by-step Acclimation Procedure for your new fish, here are a few tips we recommend to make the transition to its new home as stress-free as possible for your new tankmate:

Use a quarantine tank. A quarantine tank is a vital piece of equipment that should be used by all aquarists. In addition to preventing the spread of infectious disease from new arrivals, quarantine tanks allow new fish to get adjusted to a new type of water and food. And, when not in use for acclimating new fish, quarantine tanks double as hospice aquariums for dosing or isolating sick fish.

Provide plenty of hiding places for your new arrival. Rocks, plants, and other sheltering areas will reduce aggression and thus stress in the aquarium.

Maintain good water conditions through proper maintenance to ensure a healthy environment during this stressful period.

Try to add more than one fish at a time to an established aquarium. The chance of one particular individual being singled out and harassed will be minimized. NOTE: When adding fish it's also important not to add too many. Consult your sales associate for the appropriate number of fish to add at one time based on your size aquarium.

Always feed your aquarium before any new fish are introduced. This will help to reduce aggression toward new tankmates.

Rearrange decorations in the aquarium before the introduction to distract existing fish and remove established territories. This will help the new fish by putting it on equal ground as new territories are developed by all tankmates.

By following these tips and adhering to the other pre-introduction principles of proper selection and acclimation, your new and existing tankmates will have the best possible opportunity for a smooth transition with minimal stress.