

# Setting Up Your New Aquarium:

Dee's Pets  
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- 1 Thoroughly rinse aquarium gravel and ornaments with clean warm water, then add them to your tank.**
  - **Do not use soap or detergents**—they are highly toxic to fish.
- 2 Fill your tank approximately with room temperature water from a clean (fish tank only) bucket.**
  - Pouring the water onto a plate or saucer sitting on the gravel will help keep the gravel in place.
  - Add a water conditioner, such as **Neutral Regulator**, to de-chlorinate the water and balance the ph.
  - After tank is set up initially its safe practice to treat water outside of tank and letting it get room temperature before adding it during a maintenance water change.
- 3 Connect the airline tubing from the air pump to any air outlets inside your tank, such as air stones or decorations.**
  - By using an aquarium check valve, you can safely locate your air pump underneath your aquarium. (A check value is a small valve that is placed in the air tubing outside of your tank. It acts as a stop, preventing water from backing up and out of your aquarium if the power is turned off.)
- 4 Aquascape with live and/or plastic plants.**
  - Ideally, these should be arranged to hide your equipment.
  - Plant roots into gravel, or a plant specific aquarium substrate.
  - If you're adding live plants, make sure the water is warm enough for them.
  - Remember to keep live plants moist until they're planted—wet newspaper works well.
  - For optimum growth and root development, use an aquatic plant fertilizer such as Flourish Excel along with plant lighting.
- 5 Set up your filter and “cycle” your new tank If you are using...  
...any canister-outside:**
  - Fill them with filter materials or filter cartridge according to instructions.
  - Position them and prime them according to instructions.

**...”hang on back” or “waterfall” filter that has a pickup tube:**

- Extend the tube as close to the bottom of the tank without being in the gravel. If it is too long, you can cut it to length and reattach the intake cage.
  - Be sure to open the filter lid and fill the filter with water to “prime” the pump according to instructions.
- 6** Secure the submersible heater near your water flow and place the thermometer as far away from the heater as possible.  
Make sure you have a thermometer that’s easy to read.

**\* Important:**

**Do not** switch on the heater when it’s not immersed in water—the heating element can malfunction and overheat, and the glass tube can crack if placed in water while hot or could heat up too fast and shatter.

- Check the air outlets and adjust the settings.
- Make sure water is flowing properly through your power filter.
- Adjust the heater to the proper temperature. It will take 24 hours for the temp to stabilize and you may have to adjust
- your setting.
- Wait for cycle to complete, to ensure all equipment is working properly before adding fish.

**Cycle Information**

**Check the conditions (0ppm ammonia and 7.0 ph) and temperature (76-80F) after 24 hours.**

**Important:** “Cycling” your tank means growing the correct, healthy bacteria on a new filtration system to remove dangerous toxins. Add a ZYME product, and you can more quickly cycle and stabilize your tank.

**CYCLE-A freshwater fishtank usually needs around 8 to 14 days to cycle before you can safely add fish! Patience is a good practice when operating a fishtank.**