

FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES

AQUARIUM MANAGEMENT CARE SHEET No: 8 Routine Maintenance 01/01/98

Whilst the aquarium is nothing like a well-oiled machine, the comparison to necessary maintenance of both for ensured well running does stand examination.

Everything that goes into the aquarium (of whatever type) will have an influence for good or bad. Close attention to regular maintenance is most important. But this need not be a monotonous chore, as only a few minutes each week need to be put aside for maintenance – a small period when compared to the many hours you're likely to spend gazing into the aquarium's depths.

DAILY TASKS : Check number of fishes – investigate any absentees immediately, may be trapped behind rocks etc..
Check Ammonia, Nitrite levels (during running in period only).
Check temperature (until you get used to the 'feel' of the front glass).

WEEKLY TASKS : Prune plants if necessary, remove dead leaves.
Clean cover glass and any fluorescent tube reflectors..
Empty Protein Skimmer (marine aquarium)

MONTHLY TASKS : Remix new synthetic sea water for water change ahead of actual task.
Partial water change (siphon out detritus from substrate in process).

NOTE: When the water level falls in the aquarium due to evaporation it is pointless to merely top up the tank with new water. No dissolved minerals in the water will have 'evaporated' so the water in the tank will just get more and more overloaded. Remove a percentage of the aquarium water and then top up with fresh.

It is permissible to top up the marine aquarium with fresh (NOT salt) water to replace evaporation losses, as simply topping up with more salt water will only increase the Specific Gravity beyond the correct value.

Remove algae from front glass (leave algae on side and back glasses for the benefit of herbivorous fish).
Clean filter media, using aquarium water not tap water.

PERIODIC TASKS : Check air-pump filters; renew fluorescent tube when required.
Rotate live food cultures as necessary.
Set up spawning tank, condition intended breeder fish.
Begin Brine Shrimp hatching as fish spawn.
Remove dead marginal plants (ponds)
Remove excess silt from pond.
Use a 'Gravel Washer' to remove silt from aquarium substrate; rake over substrate to prevent compaction..
Clean Show tanks.

ODD FISH BEHAVIOUR: Check pH, Ammonia, Nitrite and Nitrate levels..
Check and clean filter media.
Check air-pump.
Check for bullying, disease, overcrowding.