BORONIA AQUARIUM PTY LTD

Filter Maintenance Basics

A high quality aquarium filter is essential for water quality and fish health. However, even a top quality filter is only as effective as the quality of the media it contains and the maintenance it receives. There are three types of filtration that most systems employ; mechanical, chemical, and biological, each requiring a specific maintenance regime.

MEDIA MAINTENANCE

Mechanical Filtration:

Traps unsightly debris and usually comes in the form of filter wool or coarse and fine sponges/pads. Regular maintenance prevents trapped debris forming ammonia and adding to the biological loading on your aquarium. Filter wool is not recommended as it can void the warranty on some filters. Pads and sponges should be rinsed regularly when dirty (every two to six weeks) in aquarium water. DO NOT use tap water as this will damage beneficial bacteria colonies. As sponges become clogged and difficult to clean they will need to be replaced. Fine pads will require more frequent replacement than coarser sponges.

Chemical Filtration:

Most commonly in the form of loose activated carbon or carbon impregnated sponges, both of which absorb harmful toxins, dissolved organics, medications, odors and discoloration of aquarium water. Activated carbon should be replaced every six weeks or more frequently if water clarity diminishes or odors become evident. As carbon removes tannins and some medications from the water, it is not recommended for use in planted tanks or whilst medicating.

Biological Filtration:

Responsible for the establishment of beneficial bacterial colonies which breakdown toxic aquarium waste products such as fish waste, uneaten food, decaying plants, etc. This process is commonly referred to as the 'nitrogen' or 'nitrification' cycle (see B.A. Biological Basics care sheet). ***Failure to understand this process is the largest contributing factor to fish loss in aquariums.*** There is a huge variety of biological media on the market but the most effective offer maximum surface area and therefore maximum biological capacity (see B.A. staff for more information). This media should ideally be placed after the mechanical and chemical filtration. In order to preserve beneficial bacteria this media requires only occasional light rinsing in aquarium water to remove debris and should only be replaced if it has been physically damaged.

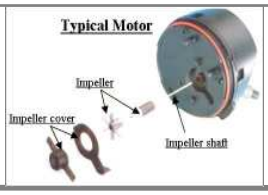
Ultra Violet Filtration:

Ultra violet sterilizers (commonly called UV filters) clarify aquarium water by controlling free floating algae which causes green water and support fish health by controlling parasites & bacteria. They are usually purchased separately to an aquarium filter and the tubes need to be replaced every 12 months.

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

Regular equipment maintenance will improve both the performance and lifespan of your filter. The following are general guidelines only, and manufacturer's recommendations should always be followed. Filter maintenance should be performed every six weeks during your regular water change or more frequently if required. Disconnect your filter from its power source and follow the manufacturer's guidelines for removing the impeller cover and impeller. Clean debris off of the impeller and impeller housing and inspect the impeller for damage. If the impeller has missing, cracked or nicked blades, grommets or shafts, they will need replacing. Clean all filter parts, including housings, intake and outlet pipes and the main body. B.A. stocks a range of specialized brushes for this purpose. Following manufacturer's recommendations, lubricate necessary parts and seals using an aquarium grade liquid silicone spray (available at B.A.). Some filters require priming before operation (filling the filter with water so the necessary siphon can be started). Follow manufactures instructions for this procedure or see B.A. staff for further information.

Feel free to contact the friendly staff at Boronia Aquarium for further information



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