

## Moving Tanks

Moving your aquarium (whether to the next room or to a new house) can be a stressful experience, not only for your fish, but for you as well! It doesn't need to be. No matter how big or small your aquarium or how far the move, the key to success is **preparation & planning**. Know where your tank is going. Are there enough power points? Do you have access to tap water? Does the tank fit into its new space? Do you have all the equipment you need? Have you allowed extra time in case you need it?

### Checklist

- Large Garbage bins or buckets with sealable lids to transport water and gravel (keep in mind that 1litre of water weighs 1kg)
- Foam boxes with lids to transport fish
- Plastic fish transportation bags & rubber bands (purchase these at your local aquarium)
- Battery operated air pump/s, air line, check valves & air stones
- Spare heater/s & thermometer/s.
- Gravel siphon
- Net
- Plastic dustpan or small shovel (for removing gravel)
- Conditioners to treat new water (including stress coat, filter bacteria supplements & ammonia absorbers)
- New laterite/gravel/heat cables/polystyrene base etc.
- Towels to protect floors & mop up spills
- Strong helpers who owe you a favour

*By minimising fish stress, controlling water parameters and maintaining filtration bacteria you should be able to achieve minimal fish loss & tank disruption.*

### One week prior

Perform your normal 10% water change and test to ensure parameters are within acceptable limits. (pH, gH, kH, ammonia, nitrite & nitrate)

### Step 1 - Stripping down.

*Leave your filter running as long as possible as it is essential to preserve as much filtration bacteria as possible. (See B.A. Biological Basics care sheet)*

- Disconnect lights, remove hood & cover glasses & pack for transportation.
- Remove all rock, wood & decoration & pack for transportation.
- Remove all plant & place in airtight plastic transport bags. As long as they remain moist and cool your plants should survive like this overnight.
- Siphon clean aquarium water into holding buckets for transportation. Do not perform a gravel siphon as you do not want to transport the debris which will have built up in the substrate. The more water you can save, the better. 80% is ideal, 50% is acceptable.
- 1/3 fill fish transport bags with aquarium water and gently place fish in. To reduce fish stress, add a drop of Seachem 'Stress Guard' before tying the bag with a rubber band, trapping as much air as possible. Do not put too many fish in each bag & only put compatible fish together.
- Place bagged fish in foam box & seal to maintain temperature. Your fish should have enough oxygen for a couple of hours (the less fish per bag, the longer the oxygen will last).
- Disconnect heater & filter. Immediately place filter media in a bucket of water with an air stone. This will help preserve as much filtration bacteria as possible.
- Give gravel a good clean using the gravel siphon, removing remaining water at the same time. Discard this water in the garden (great fertilizer!). Remove gravel and place in empty buckets for transportation. If using laterite discard it as you will need to replace it with new laterite.

**NOTE: Do not place plants in bags with fish.  
In dark conditions plants will use valuable oxygen!**

BORONIA AQUARIUM PTY LTD

1/262a Dorset Road  
BORONIA 3155  
Victoria  
Australia

Phone: 03 9762 2044  
Fax: 03 9762 2144  
E-mail:

retail@boroniaaquarium.com.au

## Moving Tanks cont.

### Step 2 - Setting up & restarting.

- Set up a half-bucket of saved aquarium water with a spare heater, thermometer & air pump. Release fish into this bucket. Add 'Stress Guard'. *Do not feed your fish whilst they are in the bucket.*
- Put the aquarium into its new position, remembering to place polystyrene foam under the tank.
- Rinse gravel & place in tank. If using laterite place a 1-2cm layer in bottom of tank first (pulling it away from the front and sides of the tank) & cover with a 3-4cm layer of 1-2mm gravel. *Do not rinse laterite.*
- Carefully fill tank with saved aquarium water. Placing a saucer on the gravel will help prevent stirring up cloudiness from the substrate.
- Lightly rinse filter media in a bucket of saved aquarium water to get rid of undesirable by-products that may have accumulated due to the filter being turned off. Install filter and turn on.
- Install heater and thermometer.
- Replace plants, rock, wood & decorations.
- Top up tank with treated (dechlorinator, gH & KH generators) cold tap water.
- Put cover glass, lights & hood on.
- Allow tank to sit for a couple of hours until temperature is at 24°C and any cloudiness has begun to settle. A dose of Seachem 'Clarity' will help clear water.
- Gradually fill bucket of fish with new aquarium water to acclimatise them to their new water conditions. This should take a period of 20-30mins. Net fish out and place gently into their new home.
- Add a good quality filter bacteria supplement. Seachem 'Stability' is ideal and should be added daily for seven days. This will ensure fast re-establishment of filtration bacteria and help prevent 'new tank syndrome' (see B.A. Biological Basics care sheet).
- Add a dose of 'Stress Guard' to help avoid symptoms of stress and continue to add daily until you feel confident that the fish are settled and the filter is operating at optimum efficiency.

### Step 3 - Monitoring

- Test your water daily for pH, ammonia, nitrite & nitrate.
- Don't feed for the first day, and then only lightly for the next few days.
- Monitor your fish closely for the next week or so for signs of stress related disease such as white spot, fungus and fin rot.
- If all parameters are normal, resume your normal water change routine. (10% water change one week after the move & weekly after that).
- Do not add any new fish until all water parameters have stayed within acceptable ranges for two to three weeks.
- Do not perform any major filter maintenance for a couple of weeks or until all water parameters are normal.

### Tips

- Never move your tank with water or gravel in it.
- Use B.A. Tropical/Coldwater/Rift Lake Basics care sheets as a general reference.
- In case of emergency, fish should survive overnight in their temporary bucket of water as long as they are kept at the correct temperature & have an airstone. If this is the case, place a filter bag of Seachem 'Renew' or API 'Bio Chem Zorb' into the bucket to absorb organic wastes such as ammonia.
- PLAN, PLAN, PLAN.

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

We recommend:



BORONIA AQUARIUM PTY LTD

1/262a Dorset Road  
BORONIA 3155  
Victoria  
Australia

Phone: 03 9762 2044  
Fax: 03 9762 2144  
E-mail:

retail@boroniaaquarium.com.au