

Power Failure and Your Fish

Power failure can pose a serious health risk to your fish. The filter will stop breaking down fish waste, lack of water circulation will cause oxygen levels to drop and in a tropical aquarium, the loss of the heater will cause the temperature to drop. A well maintained, stable and healthy aquarium should be able to cope with a power outage of up to one hour. Longer than this and you will need to take steps to protect your fish.

Be Prepared

- Do not overstock your aquarium. The more fish you have, the more quickly toxic ammonia will build up and oxygen levels drop.
- Keep a battery powered air pump/s on hand.
- If you know about the outage 12-24 hours ahead of time, perform a 10% water change to ensure water quality, siphon gravel to reduce organic waste and minimize ammonia production by not feeding the fish.

Filtration

When your filter is turned off it starts to lose valuable filtration bacteria. It is important to take steps to preserve this bacteria so that your filter can break down fish waste and organic waste products when it is turned back on.

- Remove media from the filter and either lay it in a shallow container of aquarium water or place it in a bucket of aquarium water and aerate with a battery powered air pump.
- Do not feed fish for the first one or two days of power outage and then only feed lightly.
- Remove decaying plant matter.
- Add a stress coat to help protect fish against stress reactions. Seachem 'Stress Guard' is ideal and should be added daily until power resumes and water parameters are back to normal.

Aeration

Lack of water movement through loss of filtration and/or air pumps will reduce oxygen levels in the water.

- Aerate water with a battery powered air pump and air stone.
 - Place a towel or sheet around the tank to darken it. This will slow fish activity and their oxygen use.
- NOTE: With light, plants produce oxygen which is essential for healthy fish. Without light they reverse this process and produce carbon dioxide. Without artificial lighting, and with a towel around it, your aquarium will be in complete darkness and plants will be using valuable oxygen. In this case, you may wish to remove live plants from the aquarium and store in a bucket of tank water in a cool place until power resumes and they can be returned to the aquarium. If you choose not to remove plants, ensure water is well aerated.*

Temperature

Do not add hot water to the tank as the resulting temperature fluctuations & frequent water changes may simply further stress your fish.

- Place towels over the tank to slow heat loss.
- Heat the room the aquarium is in.

When Power Resumes

- Your filter media will now contain undesirable by-products which you do not want in your tank. For this reason, give all media a light rinse in dechlorinated water before returning to the filter and restarting it.
- 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).
- Test your water for pH, ammonia, nitrite & nitrate and continue to do this daily until your filter is back to optimum efficiency (see B.A. Biological Basics care sheet).
- If test results are outside optimum parameters, wait until your tank is back to temperature, perform a 10% water change and gravel siphon. Feed lightly and add Seachem 'Stress Guard' daily until test results are all within acceptable ranges.
- Monitor your fish closely for the next week or so for signs of stress related disease such as white spot, fungus and fin rot.

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