

AQUARIUM RECIPE CARD

Project
Level: Easy

Materials

- Container: 10 Gallon glass aquarium starter Kit which will contain light fixtures, water pump, net, food, filter, etc
- Mesh Screen lid
- RO Water (Reverse Osmosis Water) or Water conditioner to treat tap water
- Aquarium Thermometer
- 2 -5lb packages of aquarium rock or gravel
- Elodea
- Guppies (male and female) Generally one inch of fish per gallon.
- Snails

Food

- Plants
- Fish food
- Brine shrimp
- Tubifex worms
- Snails

Recommended Temperature:

Tropical fish prefer temperatures ranging from 72-78° F (22-25°C). Use an aquarium heater to maintain these temperatures during the winter.



TROPICAL FISH/ELODEA HABITAT

Set up : Rinse gravel thoroughly and carefully place at the bottom of the tank. Plant sprigs of Elodea into the gravel. Fill tank half way with RO or water conditioner treated tap water (tap water may leave mineral deposits on the glass of the aquarium. Put together filtration system and hang it on the side of the aquarium. Place large rocks or cave like features into the aquarium. Add water into the tank filling almost to the top. Allow the bagged fish some time to acclimate to the temperature of the aquarium water. After about 30 minutes , release the fish into the tank. Place lid and light fixture. The light fixture will provide light for the plants to grow.

Maintenance: If you are doing a long term observation of an aquarium, you may have to monitor the filter on the aquarium to keep water clean. Many filters can simply be rinsed in a sink every month or you can replace them with another clean filter. You will also need to clean the gravel once a semester. To clean the gravel, scoop out some of the existing aquarium water into a clean container free of soap residue. Using a fish net, fish out animals and plants and keep in the container during cleaning. Syphon or scoop out water. Scoop out gravel into a bucket or tub and rinse out in the sink. Rinse aquarium, do not use soap. Algae can be removed with a new sponge. Place gravel back into the aquarium, follow the set up instructions. Monitor temperatures between the aquarium and the container to make sure that animals do not go into shock when placed back into the aquarium.

Care: Tropical fish are pretty easy to maintain if you set up plants within the environment to supplement their diet and oxygenate the water. The main concern for tropical fish is not to overfeed the fish. Follow the directions on the food container for feeding amounts, but the rule of thumb is to only feed a small amount that can be eaten within 10-15 minutes. Food that is not eaten can rot and offset of the PH of the water as well as poison your fish. Guppies are omnivorous and will eat both plant and fish or animals smaller than themselves, including their own young. Young can be protected by providing plenty of hiding places within the tank including plants and rocks. Guppies are also live bearers which means that they carry their eggs in their body until they hatch. They can be quite prolific, adult females can give birth every 1-2 months. However their young can also serve as food for other aquatic animals and fish. Try to maintain a healthy balance of fish within a ten gallon aquarium. Too many fish can cause the nitrate and ammonia levels to rise.