



March 05, 2008

tideline aquatics Newsletter

Tideline Aquatics Store Hours

Monday – Friday 11am-7pm

Saturday 10am-6pm

Sundays 1pm-5pm

COMMON MISTAKES MADE IN AQUARIUMS AND PONDS

We hear many of the same issues daily at Tideline Aquatics. Most problems aquarium and pond owners encounter are completely preventable if they just would have done some research or called a qualified aquarium store for some guidance. Don't make the same mistakes!

Treating Water for Aquariums & Ponds –

Nearly everyone knows that they should treat the tap water before adding it to the aquarium but there are two common mistakes made when performing this simple task. First, always ensure that the conditioner you purchase removes all of the following: **chloramines, chlorine, and ammonia**. So often, folks run out of conditioner and head to a store like Walmart to pick some up. Be sure the one you purchase lists all of the above before taking it home. If it only removes chlorine, the free ammonia that remains in your tap water will kill your fish! Also try and keep the dosage you use close to the recommendation on the bottle. Adding too much conditioner can cause a sudden drop in the waters pH level if you are not keeping your KH (carbonate hardness) in a safe range (see 10/16/2007 newsletter in our newsletter archive section on the website for the correct level for your aquarium or pond). The second mistake folks make is not matching the temperature of your new water with the water already in the aquarium. The new water must be within two or three degrees of your aquarium water temperature to prevent a sudden change that could cause your fish to break out with a parasite infection. Lastly, take the time to test the

new water to ensure it is safe to add to your aquarium.

Aquarium Placement –

Boy that new aquarium would be beautiful in front of that window where everyone can see it! Bad idea.... Never place your aquarium in front of a window. The tank will be plagued with algae and temperature swings.



This is the most common cause of "green water syndrome" where the water turns pea soup green with free-floating algae cells that cannot be removed by a conventional filter. If you insist on placing your aquarium in front of or even near a window, consider adding a UV sterilizer to your filtration system AND purchase an upsized heater to prevent the temperature from getting too cold in the winter. In the summer, you may be forced to add a chiller if the aquarium is too hot (very expensive purchase).

Pond Placement –

Try to never place your garden pond under the cover of shedding trees. Even if you have a bottom drain and a skimmer, when the tree sheds its leaves the filtration system will not be able to keep up. Leaves will block up both the skimmer and the bottom drain. You will find yourself outside every day netting out tree debris. Place your pond in an open area and dig it at least two

feet deep to prevent it from becoming too warm in the summer. Adding water plants for shade will also help in keeping the pond temperature cool.



Also, very few pond plants will thrive in shade. Water lilies, lotus and most bog plants require at least 6 hours of full sun per day to flower. All ponds should incorporate a UV clarifier to kill free-floating algae that turns your pond water green. Often, one season of chemical additives would have paid for a UV clarifier.

Light Duration -

Your aquarium shows best when the lights are on in the tank. Too many hours of light can cause algae to grow all over your aquarium ornaments, live rock, plants, glass and gravel.

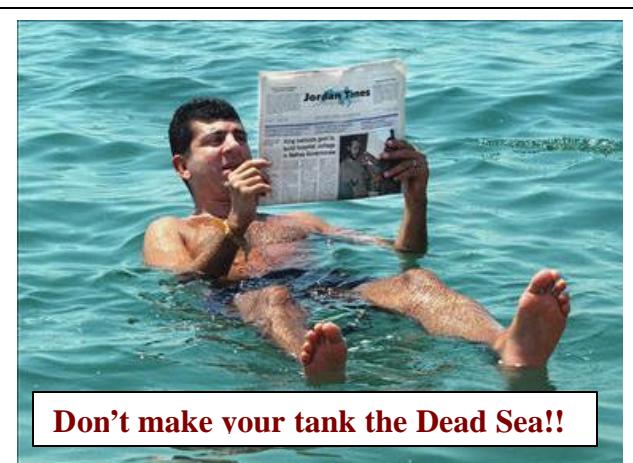


In many cases, too many hours of light can cause the aquarium to turn green with free-floating algae cells. Whether a fish-only, a reef or even a planted aquarium, the lights should be run about 8-10 hours per day. If you want to enjoy the aquarium when you get home from work, put your lights on a timer and have them come on just before you usually get home and

then cut off 8-10 hours later. The ‘24 hour lights on plan’ only leads to maintenance nightmares.

Saltwater Aquarium Top-Off -

As water evaporates in your saltwater aquarium, only the water evaporates, not the salt! Marine organisms require a stable environment equal to the water on the reef where they are collected. If you allow the water level to evaporate even an inch down in your aquarium, the salt level (salinity) will increase possibly to dangerous levels. This is especially true in smaller marine aquariums. Top off your aquarium at least twice

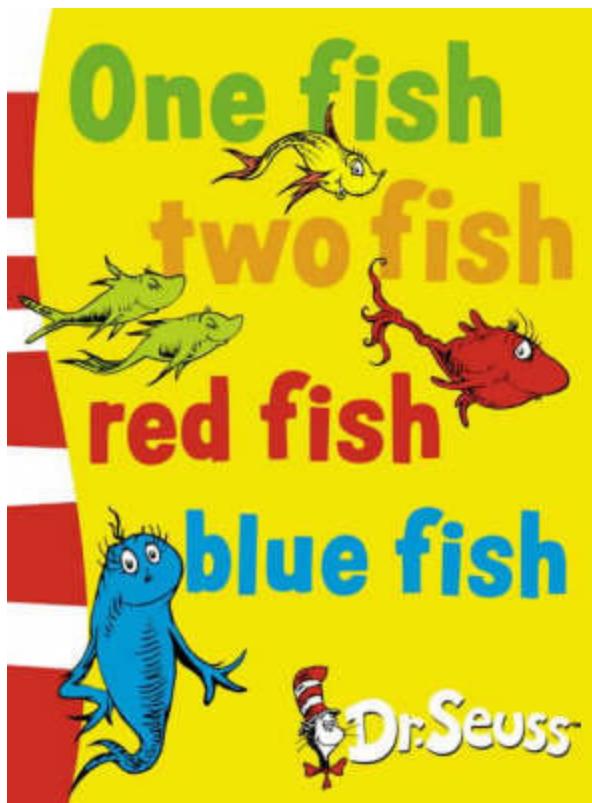


Don't make your tank the Dead Sea!!

per week!! **Remember to use only freshwater for topping off – not saltwater!** If you have a reef aquarium or an aquarium with live rock, use reverse osmosis freshwater or distilled water (both with buffer added) to top off the tank. In ‘fish-only’ systems, you should used properly treated (water conditioner) tap water. In either case, be sure the new water is within two or three degrees of your aquarium temperature. This is especially important in smaller aquariums where the temperature is easily changed by even small additions of top-off water.

Know Your Aquarium Inhabitants -

This is so important when adding new fish or invertebrates to your aquarium! You would be surprised at how many folks cannot answer this question when we ask it. In order for us to help you in adding new organisms, we need to know (and you need to know) what you already have in the tank. The “a blue fish, a red fish....” answer will not help us at all! Knowing what you have is so important in deciding what you can add safely to your aquarium. We will gladly write down the names of your animals if you just ask us. If you are unsure, take a picture (digital camera, phone



camera, etc) and bring it in. We can then make a list for you that you can update each time you add something new to the tank. You will increase your aquarium knowledge and you will prevent us from suggesting a fish that may either eat or be eaten by your existing creatures.

Water Changes – Aquariums AND Ponds -

First, evaporation of water from your aquarium or pond does not constitute a partial water change. When water evaporates, it is only the water. The accumulated organics in the aquarium remain there. At least once per month, you should change out about 25% of the aquarium or ponds water volume. This will keep your animals healthier, they will grow at a normal rate instead of being stunted, the water parameters will become more stable and you will have less algae growth due to the removal of the organic material. When you perform this partial change, you should vacuum the aquarium substrate.

These vacuums are inexpensive and easy to use. The gravel or sand does not need to be completely spotless but you should try and vacuum most of the accumulated debris from the substrate. Just randomly move the vacuum about the gravel to remove the debris. If you miss an area, you will likely hit it during your next partial water change.



In the pond, you should net out any debris from the bottom of the pond while you remove the water. Remember to treat the new water properly before adding it back to the tank. In reef aquariums or aquariums with live rock, reverse osmosis water should be used. When adding water back to your marine aquarium after a partial water change, it should be properly mixed saltwater equal to the salinity of the water in the existing aquarium water. In freshwater tanks, saltwater tanks and ponds, the new water should be tested to match (or correct) the water parameters (pH, ammonia, nitrite, hardness, etc) in the aquarium or pond.

Activated Carbon in Aquariums & Ponds-

Activated carbon does not last forever. You cannot bake it, boil it or rinse it to make it work again – it must be replaced. We recommend that every aquarium and pond use activated carbon.



Carbon removes organics, discolorations and odors that buildup in the water that can lead to pH problems and even disease in fish that need clean water low in organics. If you have a pond or aquarium, take some water from the tank and place it in a white cup. If the water color is yellow, you need to replace or add new activated carbon to the filtration. Often, the filter cartridges you use have too little carbon. Adding additional

activated carbon in a nylon bag is recommended. You should replace the carbon at least every 6 weeks for best results.

Biological Filter Required –

If you have to go to a place like Walmart to buy an aquarium filter, at least buy one that contains some type of biological filter (biofoam, biowheel, foam filter, etc). If you come to Tideline Aquatics to purchase your filter, we will ensure you leave with some sort of biological filter based on the aquarium plan you have or the number of inhabitants you plan to keep. A hang-on filter that contains just a filter cartridge is only going to remove fish waste. As far as the breaking down of ammonia and nitrite, your filter will do nothing! Once you purchase a filter that incorporates a biological filter media, you must know how to care for it properly. Whether you have a bio-wheel, a bio-foam, bio-balls, a sponge filter or any bio-media, you should never clean it with tap water as this will kill all the beneficial bacteria that have colonized there. Clean your bio-media with old aquarium water, treated tap water or saltwater (in marine tanks) if it must be cleaned of debris. These bacteria keep your water parameters stable. If you damage or destroy these nitrifying bacteria, you will likely lose some or all of your aquarium inhabitants.

CANNOT ACCESS OUR WEBSITE?

This past weekend, our website server moved to a new location. During the move, the website was down for about three days. This move required a change in our IP address. Since the website came back on-line, many customers have called us saying they cannot access our website on the internet. This is caused by Cookies stored in your computer. You can easily fix this problem by simply typing in our web address (www.tidelineaquatics.net) and then refreshing the page by pushing the F5 button on the top of your keyboard. You can also fix this by going into your internet settings and clearing your cookies stored on the computer. Either will allow you to see the MOST CURRENT page of our website instead of the stored page (the old IP address) your computer keeps to allow the site to download more quickly when you go to our site. The website is up and on-line folks. If you cannot access it, you must do one of the tasks

mentioned here to access the site if your computer does not delete cookies when you leave a webpage.

CARIBSEA PICTURE CONTEST!

They are giving away over \$10,000 in prizes!

Caribsea is now having a photo contest. You merely submit a photo of your aquarium and see if you win! You can enter as many pictures of your aquarium(s) as you like. The winner will be picked by the Caribsea staff and their guest judge, author Anthony Calfo. They are picking a freshwater winner AND a saltwater winner! You will need to go to the following site to download the flier that contains all the details:

http://caribsea.com/pages/contest/contest_flyer.pdf

We also have fliers printed out for you at the store.

GARDEN POND SEASON IS NEARLY HERE!!



We have begun to get our pond area behind the store ready for the 2008 Garden Pond Season!

GRAND OPENING OF POND SEASON AT TIDELINE AQUATICS IS FRIDAY, MARCH 14TH! See you soon folks....

The less expensive UV lamps have arrived! The cost is about 25% LESS than they have been previously. If it is time to replace your UV lamp, come on in!

What's New At Tideline

FEEDERS (NOW IN STOCK!!):

Feeder Goldfish, Feeder Rosy Redds, Feeder Ghost Shrimp, Feeder Crayfish, Feeder Fiddler Crabs, Feeder Guppies & Live Black Worms.

FRESHWATER FISH:

Livebearers – Male Endler's Livebearers, Red Velvet Swordtails, Assorted Mickey Mouse Platies, Painted Platies (true colors), Assorted

Balloon Mollies, Dalmation Mollies, Local Fancy Guppies, Black Yucatan Mollies.

Catfish/Loaches/Plecostomus –Siamensis Flying Fox Algae Eaters (safe for planted tanks), Small and Medium Common Plecostomus, Rubber Plecostomus (safe for planted tanks), Flagtail Porthole Catfish (peaceful), Synodontis petricola Catfish,

Brackish –Anableps anableps, Archerfish, Green Spotted Scatophagus, Green Spotted Puffers, Black Cheek Gobies (cool).

Tetras / Rasboras / Barbs / Danios – Giant Danios, Small Tiger Barbs, Black Skirt Tetras, Rummynose Tetras (nice size), White Fin Rosey Tetras (very nice color), White Cloud Mountain Minnows, Lemon Von Rio Tetras (new),

Gouramis / Bettas – Male Bettas, Female Bettas, Red Flame Dwarf Gouramis (beautiful colors), VERY RARE Betta Channoides Pair (expensive too), Spotted Leopard Ctenopomas.

Cichlids (Dwarf, South American, African) – XL Pair German Blue Rams, Geophagus steindacneri ‘Red Hump’ Eartheaters, XXL Incredible Saxatilis Pike Cichlids.

Other – Small South American ‘Teacup’ Freshwater Stingrays, Electric Blue Crayfish, Filamented Glassfish (awesome!), African Butterflyfish, Nice Size Tiretrack Eels (great markings), Bala Sharks.

Goldfish – (**Now in Stock**) Celestial Eye Goldfish Mixed, Medium Mixed Chinese Ryukins, Medium Mixed Chinese Orandas, Lemon Head Orandas.

Koi, Pond Fish and Pond Plants – Our pond area is being painted and cleaned up for the 2008 Pond Season. Small Domestic Koi and Medium Domestic Koi arrive this week and will be quarantined for about 14 days. Our Japanese Koi arrive on March 30th and will require 30 days for quarantine. The pond area officially opens on Friday, March 14th. Pond plants arrive late next week just in time for the opening of our garden pond area behind the store.

The list above represents only the most recent livestock shipment. We have MANY other species available at the store!

SALTWATER FISH:

Angels / Butterflyfish – Beautiful Juvenile Emperor Angelfish, Bright Purple Fiji Coral Beauty Angelfish, XL Eiblii Angelfish, Awesome Flameback Angelfish, Swallowtail Angelfish, Male Zebra Angelfish, Flagfin Angelfish, Australia Scribbled Angelfish, Rainfordi Butterflyfish, Black & White Heniochus, Kleini Butterflyfish.

Clownfish – True Percula Clownfish, African Allardi Clownfish, Ocellaris Clownfish, Sebae Clownfish, Maroon Clownfish.

Gobies / Blennies – Algae Blennies, African Midas Blennies, Twospot Signal Gobies, Diamond Sifter Gobies, Golden Head Sifter Gobies, Dragon Sifter Gobies.

Wrasses / Hogfish – Incredible Tripletail Wrasse, Brown Bird Wrasse, Lunare Wrasses, Big Sixline Wrasses, Debulius Fairy Wrasse, Balteatus Fairy Wrasse, Marble Coris Wrasses, Super Christmas Wrasses, Argus Wrasse.

Tangs / Rabbitfish – African Powder Blue Tangs, Powder Brown Tangs, Hawaiian Yellow Tangs, Nice Clown Tangs, Yellow Eye Kole Tangs, Baby African Yellow Belly Blue Regal Tangs, Convict Tangs, Sailfin Tangs, Foxface Rabbitfish.

Triggerfish / Eels / Puffers – Medium Niger Triggerfish, Hawaiian Blue Jaw Triggerfish, Hawaiian Pinktail Triggerfish, Clown Triggerfish, Humu Triggerfish (babies), Blueline Fuscus Triggerfish, Dogface Pufferfish, Valentini Pufferfish, Snowflake Moray Eels.

Lionfish – Hawaiian Red Devil Lionfish, African Black Volitan Lionfish.

Other – Flame Hawkfish, Vtail Groupers, Japanese Susumi Pseudochromis (RARE), Vampire Pseudochromis, Bicolor Pseudochromis, Tank Bred Kellogii Seahorses, Male Squareback Anthias, Assorted Damselfish.

INVERTEBRATES:

Snails / Cucumbers / Starfish / Urchins – Orange Linkia Reef Starfish, Green Brittle Starfish, Chocolate Chip Starfish, Red Striped Trochus Snails, Nerite Snails, Small Nassarius Snails, XL Nassarius Snails, Chestnut Turbo Snails, Mexican Turbo Snails.

Crustaceans – Cleaner Shrimp, Red Fire Shrimp, Red Pistol Shrimp, Green Pistol Shrimp, Candy Pistol Shrimp, Scarlet Reef Hermits, Cortez Reef Hermits, Left Hand Reef Hermits, Orange Halloween Reef Hermits, Arrow Crabs, Sally Lite Foot Crabs, Hawaiian Pom Pom Crabs, Coral Banded Shrimp.

Corals / Polyps / Mushrooms – Assorted Indonesian Mushroom Rocks, Green Indo Ricordea Mushroom Rocks, Assorted Nano Corals, Purple Lemnalia Soft Corals, Green Daisy Polyp Rocks, Green Zoanthid Rocks, Metallic Zoanthid Rocks, Pink Zoanthid Rocks, Orange Zoanthid Rocks, Fiji Green Finger Leather Corals, Gold Ultra Spaghetti Leather Corals, Fiji Toadstool Leather Corals, Astreopora Corals, Purple Encrusting Montipora Danae Corals, Pink Encrusting Montipora Danae Corals, Candy Caulestrea Corals, Green Hydnophora Corals, Merulina Corals, Cultured Acropora Corals, Green Fox Corals, Bubble Corals, Super Favites Corals, Red Trachyphilia Corals, Very Rare Duncanopsammia Axifuga Coral (5 polyps), Super Incredible XL Branching Black Tubastrea Coral.

Other – Green Bubble Anemones, Purple Tip Sebae Anemones, Long Tentacle Anemones.

This list is based on our most recent shipment of saltwater livestock. There are many other species available in the store not included in this list.