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Thread: [Fish tank cleaning](#)

Charlie Sheen - January 9, 2024, 11:06 am

I have 7 fish currently and a 30 gallon tank. I love my fish but I suck at maintaining my tank. I need to get a new vacuum and I was wondering if anyone has any tips when it comes to vacuuming and any suggestions on which vacuum is best. I have some cheap one I got at Walmart and it's such a pain to use.

Jamika - January 15, 2024, 1:36 am

Why dont you at first try smaller one? Seems alot for 7 fishes

Sajuuk - January 15, 2024, 9:40 pm

Depends on the species, substrate, whether it's cycled, planted, refugium in use or not, freshwater or salt, etc, etc.

So many variables in aquariums. Which aspect of "maintenance" are we talking?

EDIT: If it's literally just vaccuming substrate, the standard pipe hoses are in wide use for a reason. They work. Can't get much better in terms of manual substrate cleaning.

Melalis - June 13, 2024, 7:17 am

Maintaining a clean aquarium is crucial for the health of your fish, and a good aquarium vacuum can make this task much easier. Here are some tips and suggestions for choosing and using an aquarium vacuum:

Tips for Vacuuming Your Aquarium

1. Regular Maintenance: Vacuum your tank regularly to prevent the buildup of waste and debris. For a 30-gallon tank, aim to vacuum at least once a week.
2. Partial Water Changes: Combine vacuuming with partial water changes. This helps remove waste while also replenishing clean water in the tank.
3. Move Decorations: Gently move decorations and plants to ensure you're vacuuming debris that may be trapped underneath.
4. Avoid Overfeeding: Overfeeding your fish can lead to excess waste. Feed your fish only what they can eat in a few minutes.
5. Vacuum the Substrate: Make sure to vacuum the substrate thoroughly. Use a gentle touch to avoid disturbing the beneficial bacteria that live there.

Recommended Aquarium Vacuums

Here are some highly recommended aquarium vacuums that can make the task easier:

1. Python No Spill Clean and Fill System:
 - Pros: Easy to use, allows for water changes without the need for buckets, and can reach deep into the substrate.
 - Cons: More expensive than basic models, requires attachment to a faucet.
2. Eheim Quick Vac Pro Automatic Gravel Cleaner:
 - Pros: Battery-operated, easy to use, and great for quick clean-ups.
 - Cons: Not suitable for large tanks or deep cleaning sessions.

3. Fluval AquaVac+ Water Changer and Gravel Cleaner:

- Pros: Multi-functional, battery-operated, and can be used for both water changes and gravel cleaning.
- Cons: Battery life may be limited, and suction might not be as strong as some other models.

4. Aqueon Aquarium Gravel Cleaner:

- Pros: Affordable, manual operation, comes in various sizes for different tank capacities.
- Cons: Requires manual pumping, which can be tiring for large tanks.

5. NICREW Automatic Gravel Cleaner:

- Pros: Electric, powerful suction, and easy to operate.
- Cons: Requires a power source, might be more expensive than manual options.

Using an Aquarium Vacuum

1. Preparation: Turn off any electrical equipment in the tank (heaters, filters) to avoid accidents.
2. Start the Siphon: If using a manual vacuum, start the siphon by submerging the vacuum tube and allowing it to fill with water. Once filled, raise the tube to let the water flow out, creating suction.
3. Vacuuming Technique: Gently push the vacuum tube into the substrate, lifting it up occasionally to allow debris to be sucked up. Move systematically to cover the entire tank.
4. Water Disposal: Collect the dirty water in a bucket for disposal. If using a no-spill system, direct the waste water to a sink or drain.
5. Refill the Tank: After vacuuming, replace the removed water with fresh, conditioned water.

Final Tips

- Consistency: Regular maintenance is key to a healthy tank.
- Monitor Water Parameters: Keep an eye on water parameters (ammonia, nitrites, nitrates) to ensure your tank remains healthy.
- Avoid Overcrowding: Ensure your tank is not overstocked, as this can increase waste and make maintenance more challenging.

By choosing the right vacuum and maintaining a regular cleaning schedule, you can keep your aquarium clean and provide a healthy environment for your fish. [warn]