

# HOW TO . . . .



## Set up a TROPICAL AQUARIUM

### STEP 1:

Stick your background on the outside of the tank with tape. Wash gravel thoroughly before placing it in the aquarium. Use enough to give it a depth of 5cm so plants can root into it.

### STEP 2:

Fill your tank with water. Use a good water conditioner such as 'Interpet Fresh Start' to remove chlorine. Water may look cloudy at first but will soon clear.

### STEP 3:

Add any large pieces of decoration such as bogwood & rocks first, and then equipment can be hidden behind them. Bogwood can turn the water brown - it is harmless to the fish but is unsightly and can be removed by adding carbon to the filter and boiling the bogwood before use.



### STEP 4:

Add your heater and only switch it on when underwater to prevent the glass from cracking. It can be hidden behind a decoration but ensure the water can circulate around it. The best temperature for tropical fish is 24-26°C. Completely submerge the filter underwater & hide it behind a decoration, again ensuring there is a free flow of water around it. Use a thermometer to keep a check on the temperature of the aquarium water.

### STEP 5:

Add smaller decorations & plants to complete your scene. Vallis & Amazon Swords are good hardy plants which establish themselves quickly & easily. Amazon Sword is tall and looks good at the back. Vallis grows tall and spreads along the waters surface, providing some natural shade for the fish.

### STEP 6:

Use a good filter start-up product such as 'Interpet Filter Start'. Test your aquarium water for pH, ammonia nitrite & nitrate.



### STEP 7:

Place the hood on the tank and switch the lights on. It is recommended to have the lights on for approx 8 hours a day. You will need to run the aquarium for around 7 days before it is ready for fish. Even in a newly established tank, it's best to add 2-4 small fish like Danios or Tetras to begin with.

Patience is very important in the first few weeks of your aquarium's new life. It will be worth the wait in the long run!



### Tips For Your Aquarium...

**\* Don't worry if the water turns a little misty in the first couple of weeks - this is caused by a bacterial bloom - it is perfectly natural and actually shows that everything is working okay. It will clear in a few days.**

**\* Never over-feed your fish or add too many fish at once. Doing this will quickly create water quality problems and can result in fatalities!**