



Introducing new fish

Congratulations on your new tank mates. Here at Fish2water we take great pride in delivering to you the best quality fish in the best possible condition. Here are some easy steps to follow when introducing your new fish to your tank.

If you have a quarantine tank, perfect, this is the ideal way to ensure you aren't inadvertently introducing bugs to your system.

If you don't have this luxury, then close observation and careful management of the tank for the first few weeks are really important.

Directions

Step 1: Open the bag and add one cup of water (from where the fish is going) slowly into the bag.

Do not float the bag in the tank – this causes unnecessary stress for the fish.

Step 2: Three minutes later, slowly add another cup. Repeat steps one and two until the bag is full.

Step 3: If you are introducing your fish to a tank with other fish. Then we suggest you feed them before introducing the new fish, especially if there is going to be a significant size difference. We like to think of this as “muzzling” the existing fish. They will then be more interested in the food and their mouths will be full, helping to prevent them doing any damage to the new fish!

Step 4: catch the fish out of the bag and put into the tank.

Do not put the water from the bag into the tank.

After introducing new fish, it is best to keep the lights off for the rest of the day while they settle in.

Helping stressed fish

African Cichlid fish all have naturally occurring bugs in their tummies (internal flagellates). When a fish is under stress, whether from being moved, bullied, a dramatic drop in temperature or poor water conditions to name a few, the population of these bugs in the tummy explode and can lead to death.

When we know our fish have been exposed to any of these stressful situations we help them by flushing their tummies out. Flushing the tummy helps to prevent the flagellate numbers getting out of control.



We suggest you purchase some Epsom salts at your chemist. Get the pure one that has no additives. Epsom salts when fed to the fish in an appropriate way it helps draw water into the stomach and intestines of the fish, leading to a flushing out of the intestinal passage.

Directions

Step 1: Add 1-2tbs of the Epsom salts to 500mls of water. Mix and put into a sealable bottle, to keep for future use.

Step 2: Soak fish food in a few drops and leave for a few minutes to absorb

The solution should all be absorbed by the food

Step 3: Feed immediately.

Feed twice a day for three days. Do not feed in between.

This method works particularly well with pelleted food although it can also work with flake food. We feed pelleted food because we believe it to be a better feeding option than flake food.

Watch your filter

Now you have added more fish, your filter will need to work harder to keep up with the added waste. This is referred to as an increase in bio load. Bio load means the amount of stress the fish population and food inputs puts on your filter. While the filter is getting up to speed you should look out for the following:

Increased gill movement or heavy breathing – this heavy breathing could mean there is an increase in ammonia or there could be low oxygen in the water. If there are multiple fish showing this behaviour you should test the water for ammonia immediately and ensure there is sufficient surface agitation for oxygen exchange.

TIP: When adding new fish, one new fish will always get picked on. You could liken it to the new kid in school. Where ever possible add more than 2-3 fish at a time, this will spread the aggression out and reduce the stress on individual fish. If you are adding one fish, add the fish at night so they “wake up” together. Never float the bag on the surface. It will only freak the poor fish out.