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What Can Cause Cloudy Water in Your Aquarium

Almost all freshwater aquarium hobbyists at one time have experienced cloudy tank water. Here are some reasons that commonly cause cloudy water:

- ⇒ Insufficiently washed substrate or gravel. After filling your aquarium with water and within a couple of hours your water becomes cloudy, it may probably be caused by the gravel not being fully rinsed. What you can do is empty the water in the aquarium and rinse the gravel multiple times until the water becomes clear.
- ⇒ Development of bacteria - There are times when the water in your tank suddenly gets cloudy despite having been clear days ago. This can be caused by development of bacteria as the water cycles through the conditioning period and nitrogen cycle. Over time, beneficial bacterial colonies will develop in the water and in some stages, you might experience a bacteria bloom and the water gets cloudy. Hold off on feeding your fish for a couple days and change out your filter media. Usually it will take your aquarium to completely cycle in about four to six weeks and to develop sufficient beneficial bacteria.
- ⇒ If cloudiness persists more than four days take a sample of your aquarium's water to your local aquarium store and have them test your waters ammonia, nitrite, pH and water hardness. If parameters are not within normal range then perform a 25% partial water change with your gravel siphon cleaner and replace with new water.
- ⇒ Cloudiness due to an algae bloom. When this happens, your water usually turns cloudy and green. A number of things can cause this algae growth such as over feeding and/or your aquarium lighting left on too long. High levels of nitrates can cause excessive algae growth also. Performing a 25% partial water change will help bring your excessive nutrients down. Also reduce the amount of time you have your aquarium lighting on.

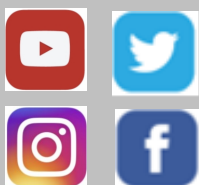


SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Cloudy Water
- Hardy Fish
- Number of Fish in Tank

Recommendations

1. Set up a maintenance schedule and perform a 25% partial water change monthly.
2. Do not over feed, feed only what your fish can eat in a couple minutes.
3. Do not leave your aquarium lighting on too long, typically 6 to 8 hours of lighting is sufficient.
4. Test your water chemistry a couple times a month, checking the ammonia, nitrite, nitrate and pH to insure your aquarium's water is within normal parameters.



Red-Wag Platy

An ideal community fish, easy to keep and reproduce. Keep two females with each male to help minimize constant harassment.

Care Level: Beginners and up

Size: 3 inches

Temperature: 72°F - 78°F

pH: 7.0 - 8.0

Lifespan: 2 - 3 years

Temperament/Behavior: Hardy, peaceful and compatible with others

Aquarium Size: 2 gallons or larger

Compatible Tank Mates: Bettas, Swordtails, Platys, Tetras, Zebra Danios, Mollies, White Clouds and Corydoras Catfish

Diet/Foods: Flake food, frozen and freeze-dried foods such as brine shrimp, tubifex and daphnia

Tank Region: All over the tank

Gender: The female is usually bigger than the male and the male platy has a modified smaller anal fin than the female

Breeding: Live bearers. If you have a male and a female, there is a good chance they will have offspring

Origin: Mexico



How Many Fish Can I Have In My New Aquarium?

When starting out it is best to add one or two fish and wait 2 weeks so the aquarium can become established and beneficial bacteria begin growing unless you add products that speed up this process. Typically it takes 4 to 6 weeks for a tank to cycle through and become established. So it's always best to start slowly. Generally the number of fish you can keep in your tank depends on the type of fish and amount of bio-load in your tank. A good recommendation is an inch of fish per gallon of tank, measuring the length of the fish from the base of the tail to the front of their mouth.



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