

Weekly Aquarium Maintenance Checklist

Print a fresh copy each week or annotate in your PDF reader. Adapt tasks and frequency to your livestock, system and test results. Filter servicing is condition-based, not automatically required every week.

Week beginning: _____ Aquarium: _____ Checked by: _____

1. Observe and test before you start

- ☐ Check each animal: appetite, breathing, swimming, injuries and unusual behaviour.
- ☐ Check temperature, water level, leaks and normal filter / pump operation.
- ☐ Test ammonia, nitrite and nitrate; test pH, GH or KH as relevant. Record units and results on page 2.
- ☐ Review the planned water-change amount and replacement-water preparation method.

2. Prepare and carry out the planned care

- ☐ Prepare dedicated clean tools and suitable replacement water. Follow conditioner and product labels.
- ☐ Isolate or switch off equipment as its manufacturer directs before lowering water; protect heaters from exposure.
- ☐ Clean viewing glass using tools suitable for the tank material; remove dead leaves and loose cuttings.
- ☐ Remove accessible debris gently, protecting animals, roots and the substrate. Never start a siphon by mouth.
- ☐ Carry out the planned partial water change. Record litres removed and replaced.
- ☐ Trim or thin plants only where needed; preserve cover, surface access and equipment access.
- ☐ Inspect intakes and flow. Service the filter only if due or needed; preserve biological media.
- ☐ If cleaning media, use appropriate removed aquarium water or suitable conditioned water, not detergent.

3. Restart, verify and record

- ☐ Refill gently with appropriately conditioned water at suitable temperature and chemistry.
- ☐ Restart and prime equipment as required. Confirm actual flow, temperature and leak-free operation.
- ☐ Use fertiliser or other products only if appropriate and as labelled. Record exact product and measured dose.
- ☐ Recheck animal behaviour; secure the lid and confirm any required surface breathing access.
- ☐ Record work, issues and next actions on page 2. Set the next review date.

Act promptly: Animal distress or detected ammonia / nitrite needs attention now. Check water and equipment, improve suitable aeration and seek individual aquatic or veterinary advice. Do not wait for the next weekly service.

Weekly Care & Water-Test Record

Date / time: _____ Aquarium: _____ Actual water volume: _____ litres

Water results

Parameter	Before care	After care / follow-up	Units / species target
Temperature			°C
Ammonia			
Nitrite			
Nitrate			
pH			pH units
GH / KH (if relevant)			
Source water (if checked)			

Ammonia and nitrite should read zero on suitable tests. Nitrate, pH and hardness targets depend on the exact inhabitants. Follow test-kit instructions and investigate unexpected readings.

Work and product record

Water removed: _____ litres Replacement water: _____ litres Preparation / conditioner: _____

Products / formulations / measured doses: _____

Filter or equipment work / plant work / feeding observations: _____

Issues, advice and next actions

Next review: _____ Action owner / helper: _____

Care references and use

OATA: [Freshwater water testing](#) and [freshwater aquarium setup and care](#). References checked 12 October 2026. General freshwater checklist; marine and specialist systems need adapted procedures.

© 2026 Matthews Aquatic Paradise Ltd. Print for personal aquarium care. Static worksheet; no interactive fields. Equipment and species instructions take priority over this general checklist.