



Acclimatisation of Freshwater Fish to Your Aquarium

Getting your fish home

Make sure you take your fish directly home, always avoid delays and don't leave your fish bags inside hot or cold cars – extreme temperatures will stress the fish. Ideally you should transport the fish in an insulated container, such as an esky bag or polystyrene box (especially on long trips home).

Before adding your fish

Before you add your new fish to the tank, it is always a good idea to check your water quality and adjust if needed, particularly the pH. (A water change may also help to ensure water quality is correct before adding your new fish).

Adding your fish

1. Turn the aquarium light off as bright lights can add to the stress of fish.
2. Float the unopened bag on the water surface for 10 to 15 minutes.
3. Open the bag and add 1 cup of your aquarium water to the bag.
4. Leave the bag open for another 10 minutes.
5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 twice.

6. Carefully net the fish out and place in your tank. Do not tip the shipping bag water into your tank.
7. We recommend that products such as Stress Coat, Stress Guard, or Aquatan be used to assist the fish to settle in – these products have chemicals that will help calm the fish and help them settle in to their new home. Melafix is also great to add to tanks when adding new fish.
8. Check that fish have settled in.
9. Do not feed until next day. (Newly arrived fish usually take a day to settle and at first may not be interested in feeding.)
10. For established tanks with territorial fish such as Cichlids, aggressive behaviour towards new fish can be reduced by rearranging the tank décor (eg. driftwood, rocks etc) This helps disrupt any existing territories, giving all the tank occupants an equal opportunity to form new territories.
11. Keep a close eye on the fish for the first few days for signs of any problems (eg bullying from original fish).



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