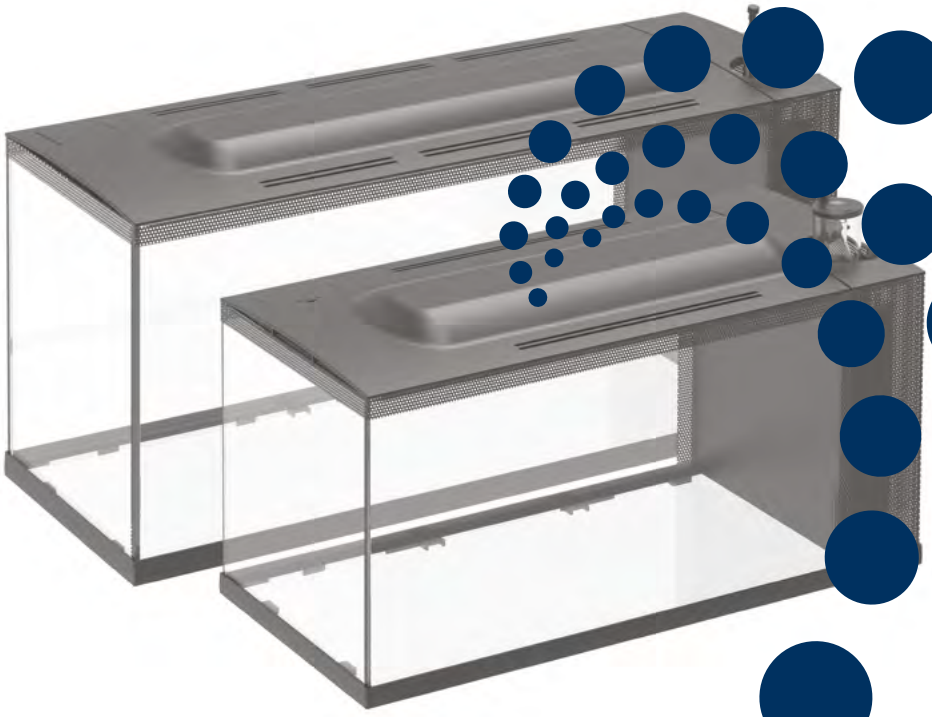
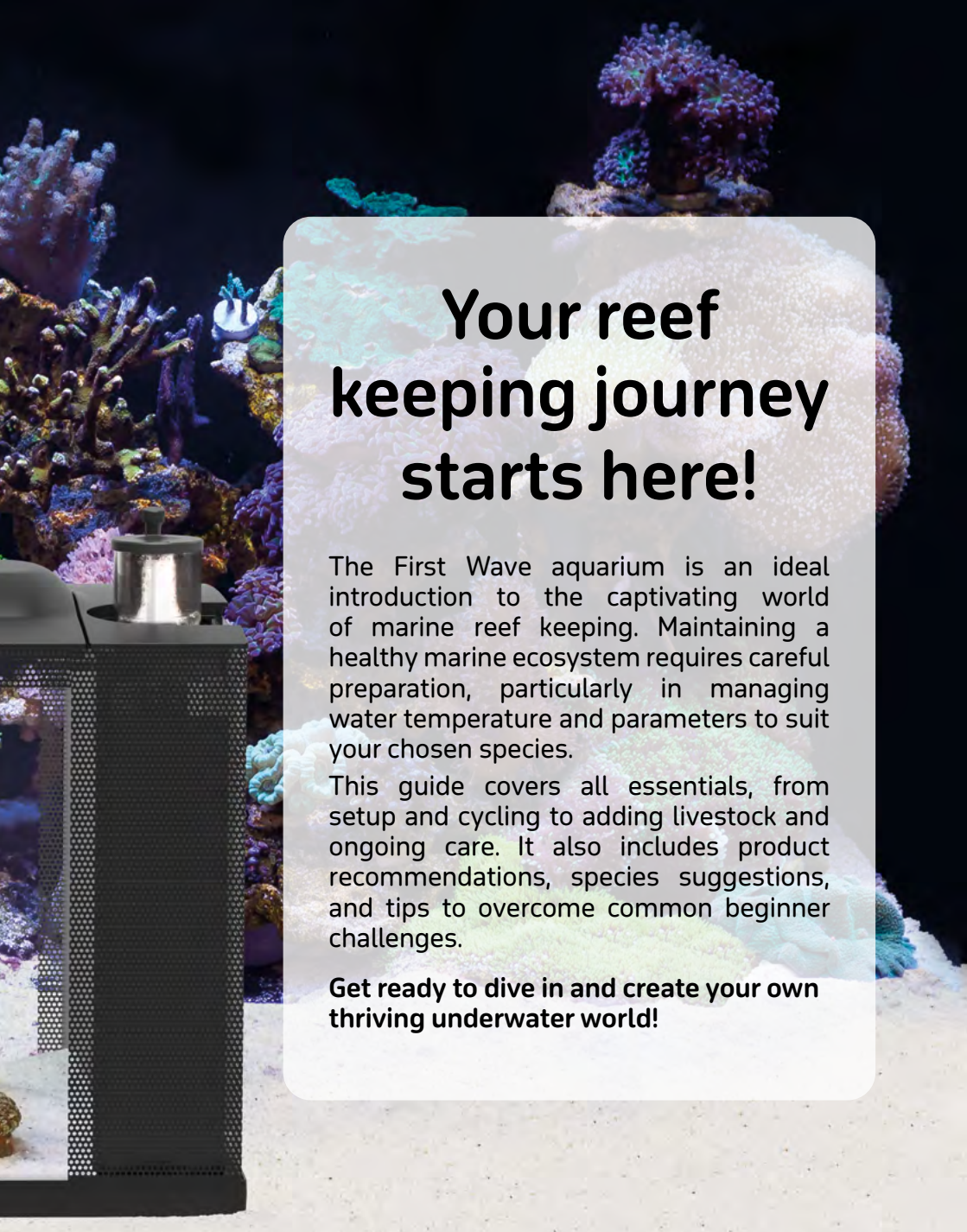
tmc

the first wave

for the first generation of reef keepers

Instructions





Your reef keeping journey starts here!

The First Wave aquarium is an ideal introduction to the captivating world of marine reef keeping. Maintaining a healthy marine ecosystem requires careful preparation, particularly in managing water temperature and parameters to suit your chosen species.

This guide covers all essentials, from setup and cycling to adding livestock and ongoing care. It also includes product recommendations, species suggestions, and tips to overcome common beginner challenges.

Get ready to dive in and create your own thriving underwater world!

IMPORTANT: The saltwater must be prepared properly, with stable parameters and temperature tailored to your livestock, before introducing any species into the tank.

CAUTION: Due to its size, the First Wave tank is not suitable for all ornamental marine species. Consult the **recommended species** section (page 25) for guidance. For small fish, micro-invertebrates, or corals, research their habitat needs thoroughly and ensure conditions are appropriate before introduction. If unsure, seek advice from your local fish shop (LFS).

We recommend investing in a reliable marine-keeping reference book to deepen your knowledge and support a successful experience.

NOTE: Small water volumes are highly sensitive to parameter changes. Introduce only one animal at a time, allowing it to settle fully and ensuring stable water conditions before adding another. This process may take several weeks.

First Wave Instructions

Index

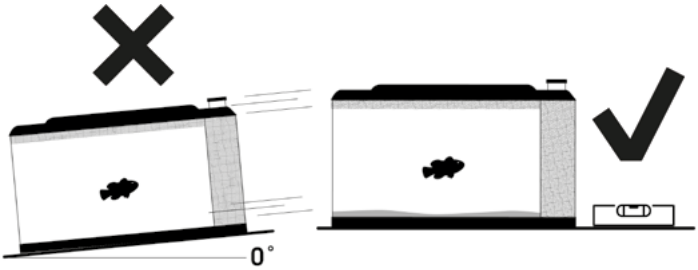
BEFORE YOU START

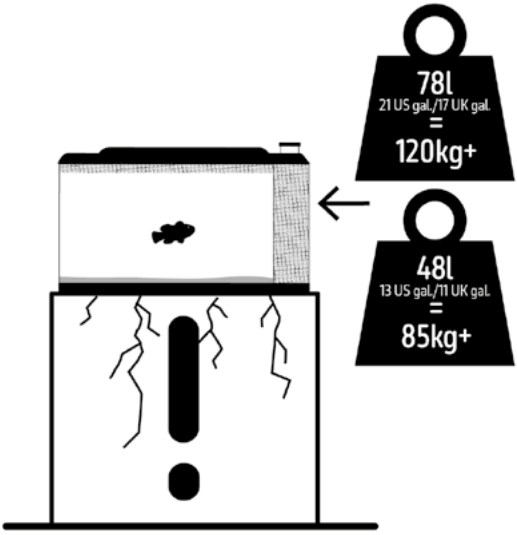
Initial Inspection & Care

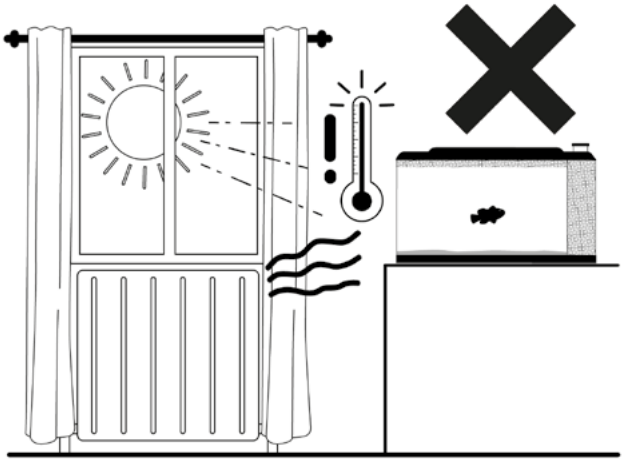
- Inspect for any damage or missing parts before assembly. Look for cracks or misaligned parts.
- Thoroughly rinse the aquarium and filter media, using fresh water and a damp cloth. **Never** use cleaning detergents on any component placed in your aquarium as they are harmful to livestock.

Choosing a Location

- Ensure the tank is away from direct sunlight to prevent overheating and algae growth.
- Keep away from draughts by positioning it away from direct heating or cooling vents.
- Keep it near an electrical source but away from high-traffic areas to avoid disturbances.
- Choose a spot where you can comfortably observe and maintain your tank.







IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

Please Read Carefully

CAUTION: Always isolate all electrical appliances from the mains electricity before installing or carrying out any maintenance to the First Wave tank.

CAUTION: Power to the First Wave tank and heater (not supplied) must be supplied through a Residual Current Device (RCD - not supplied) with a rated residual operating current not exceeding 30mA.

CAUTION: Thoroughly rinse the aquarium and filter media, using fresh water and a damp cloth. **Never use cleaning detergents on any component placed in your aquarium as they are harmful to livestock.**

- Do not run the water return pump and/or protein skimmer pump dry.
- To ensure the water circulation pump and protein skimmer pump continue to maintain a steady water flow,they must be cleaned regularly to ensure they do not become clogged with debris or detritus.
- Pump rating: 220-240V, 50Hz unless marked otherwise.

CAUTION: Do not operate any appliance if it has a damaged cord or plug, if it is malfunctioning, or if it has been dropped or damaged in any way.

- This First Wave tank is designed to be used indoors and is not suitable for any outdoor applications.
- Ensure the First Wave tank is securely installed on a level surface, capable of supporting the weight of the tank, before operating.

Please Note: This tank must NOT be positioned in direct sunlight as this will lead to excessive algae growth, or in a location exposed to low temperatures or increased heat levels i.e. NOT by a radiator.

- Ensure all components are securely installed before operating.

CAUTION: Always leave a drip-loop in all component cables to prevent water running down the cables and reaching the power source.

CAUTION: Always isolate all components from the mains electricity before installing or carrying out any maintenance to the tank.

CAUTION: DO NOT SUBMERGE THE LED LIGHTING SYSTEM. If the light falls into the First Wave tank by accident, immediately isolate the LED lighting system from the mains electricity before removing.

- This appliance is not intended for use by persons (including children) with reduced physical, sensory or mental capabilities, or lack of experience and knowledge, unless they have been given supervision or instruction concerning use of the appliance by a person responsible for their safety.

DISPOSE OF THIS UNIT RESPONSIBLY.

Check with your local authority for disposal information.

WHAT'S IN THE BOX:

1. 48l Aquarium tank with built-in filtration system
2. Aquarium lid with feeding port
3. Filtration system lid
4. Low voltage DC Reef ready LED
5. Low voltage DC Return Pump with inlet sponge
6. Low Voltage DC protein skimmer
7. Low voltage PSU
8. Fine pore filter pad
9. Ceramic bio-ring pack
10. 2 x Coarse pore filter sponges
11. Multi-directional outlet
12. Pipework and fittings
13. Heater bracket
(*Heater sold separately)

4 Low voltage DC Reef ready LED

LEDs 30pcs White - LEDs 4pcs Blue

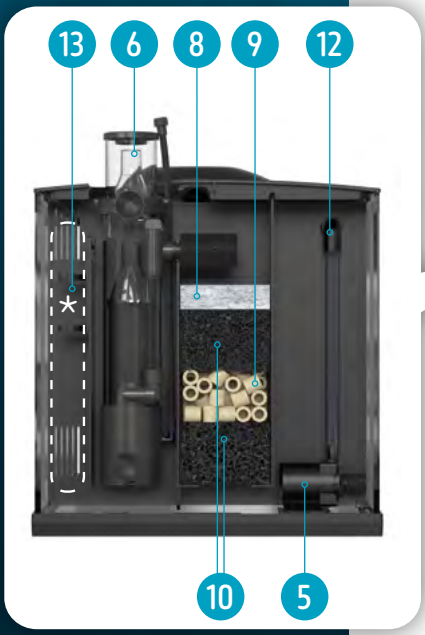
Wattage	13W
Voltage	12V
Lumens	940lm
Colour Temperature	14000K

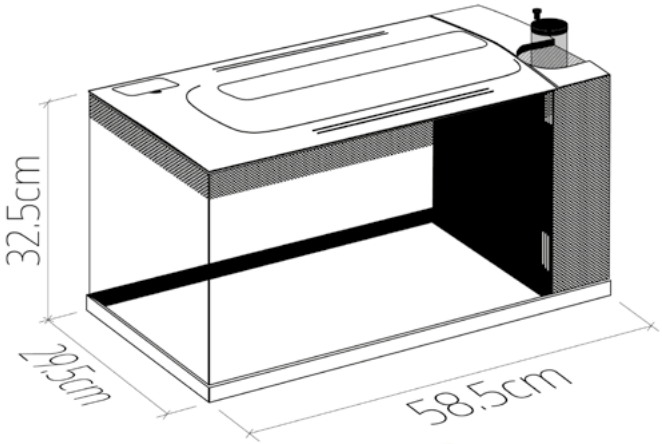
5 Low Voltage DC Return Pump

Flow rate	500l/h (132 US gal/h, 110 UK gal/h)
Max. power	5.4W
Voltage	12V
Max. head	1.5m (5ft)

6 Low Voltage DC Protein Skimmer

Flow rate	60l/h (16 US gal/h, 13 UK gal/h)
Max. power	8.4W
Voltage	12V





First Wave aquarium

48l

Dimensions
58.5 x 29.5 x 32.5cm
23" x 11.6" x 13"

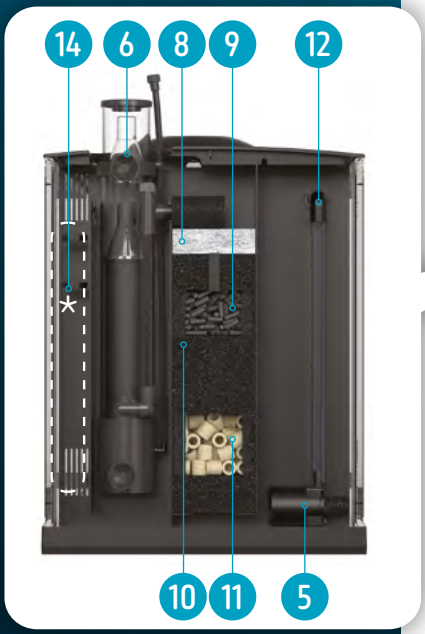
Required for installation
(NOT SUPPLIED)

13 *50W Heater (bracket supplied)

- Thermometer
- Hydrometer or refractometer
- Water Test kits (See page 22 for more information)
- Residual Current Device (RCD) with a rated residual operating current not exceeding 30mA
- Bucket or similar container for preparing your salt water.
- 48 litres of salt water correctly prepared according to the instructions supplied with your chosen synthetic salt, and at the correct temperature.
- Measuring jug or similar vessel (for filling the First Wave tank with water).
- A small cup, flat plate or something similar (to be used when filling the First Wave tank with water to prevent any substrate from being displaced).

What's in the box:

1. 78l Aquarium tank with built-in filtration system
2. Aquarium lid with feeding port
3. Filtration system lid
4. Low voltage DC Reef ready LED
5. Low Voltage DC Return Pump
6. Low Voltage DC Protein Skimmer
7. Low voltage PSU
8. Fine pore filter pad
9. Activated Carbon pack
10. Coarse pore filter sponges
11. Ceramic bio-ring pack
12. Multi-directional outlet
13. Pipework and fittings
14. Heater bracket
    (*Heater sold separately)



4 Low voltage DC Reef ready LED

LEDs 48pcs White - LEDs 6pcs Blue

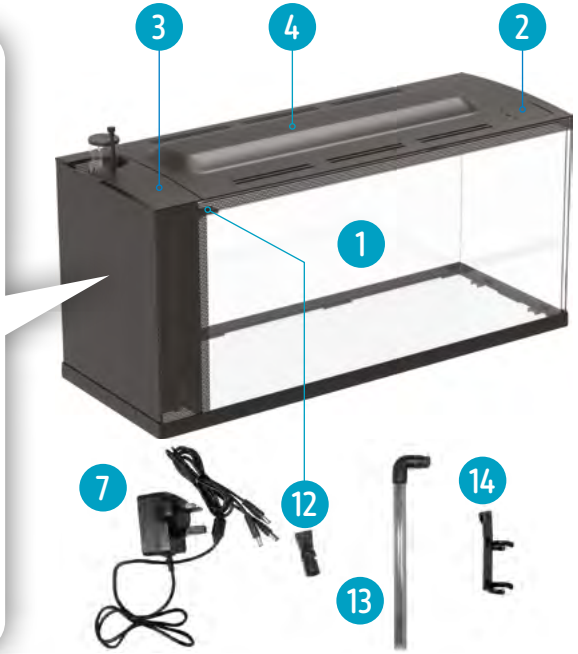
Wattage	22W
Voltage	12V
Lumens	2000lm
Colour Temperature	14000K

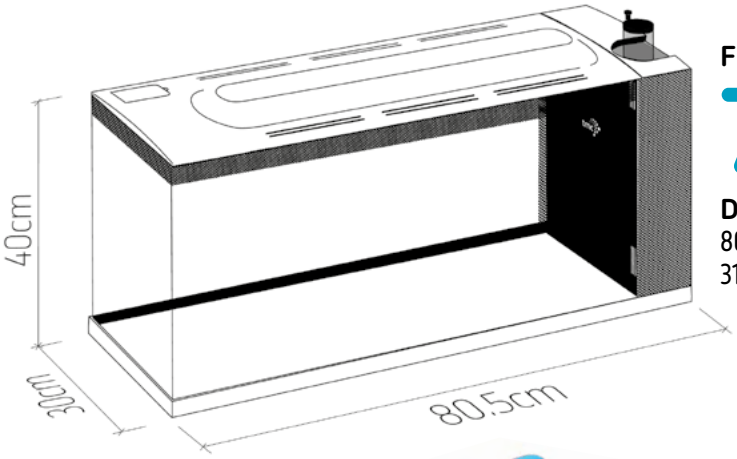
5 Low Voltage DC Return Pump

Flow rate	650l/h (172US gal/h, 143UK gal/h)
Max. power	7.2W
Voltage	12V
Max. head	2.5m (8.2ft)

6 Low Voltage DC Protein Skimmer

Flow rate	90l/h (24US gal/h, 20UK gal/h)
Max. power	10.8W
Voltage	12V





First Wave aquarium

78l

Dimensions
80.5 x 30 x 40cm
31.7" x 11.8" x 15.7"

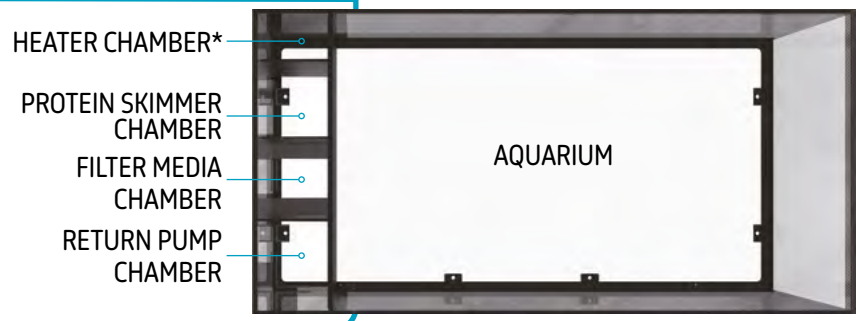
Required for installation
(NOT SUPPLIED)

14 *100W Heater (bracket supplied)

- Thermometer
- Hydrometer or refractometer
- Water Test kits (See page 22 for more information)
- Residual Current Device (RCD) with a rated residual operating current not exceeding 30mA
- Bucket or similar container for preparing your salt water.
- 78 litres of salt water correctly prepared according to the instructions supplied with your chosen synthetic salt, and at the correct temperature.
- Measuring jug or similar vessel (for filling the First Wave tank with water).
- A small cup, flat plate or something similar (to be used when filling the First Wave tank with water to prevent any substrate from being displaced).

ASSEMBLY

FILTRATION CHAMBER



TOP VIEW

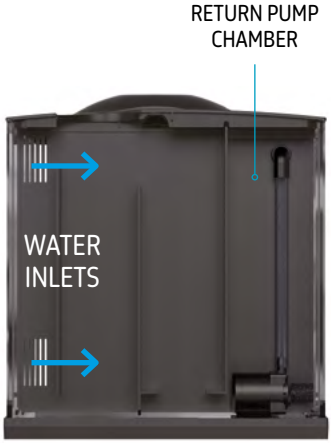
KEEP INLETS & OUTLETS CLEAR

To avoid any operating problems, ensure the water inlets and outlets are not obscured by tank decor, substrate or filter media.

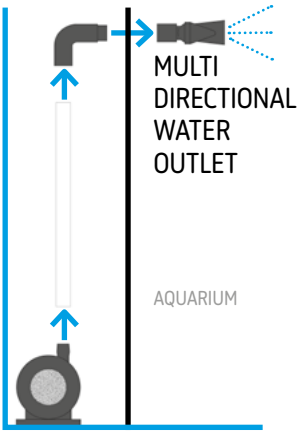
*HEATER SOLD SEPARATELY

STEP 1

Connect the pump to multi-directional water outlet



FILTRATION CHAMBER OPEN VIEW



TANK SIDE VIEW DIAGRAM

STEP 2
Insert filter media

FILTER MEDIA CHAMBER

FILTRATION CHAMBER OPEN VIEW

48l

Fine pore filter pad removes fine particles and debris from the water and helps trap any micro bubbles exiting the protein skimmer.

Coarse pore filter sponge provides both biological and mechanical filtration, effectively removing particles from the water.

Ceramic bio-rings offer a large surface area and habitat for beneficial nitrifying bacteria to grow, delivering efficient biological filtration *media bag supplied*

Coarse pore filter sponge to remove any remaining particles from the water.

FILTER MEDIA CHAMBER

FILTRATION CHAMBER OPEN VIEW

78l

Fine pore filter pad removes fine particles and debris from the water and helps trap any micro bubbles exiting the protein skimmer.

Activated Carbon to remove odours and reduce water discolouration *media bag supplied*

Coarse pore filter sponge provides both biological and mechanical filtration, effectively removing particles from the water.

Ceramic bio-rings offer a large surface area and habitat for beneficial nitrifying bacteria to grow, delivering efficient biological filtration *media bag supplied*

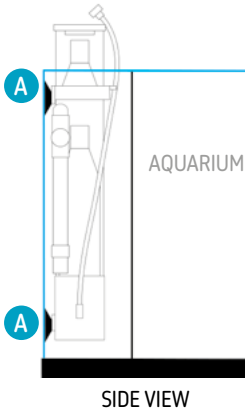
STEP 3
Install protein skimmer & heater

Image 01

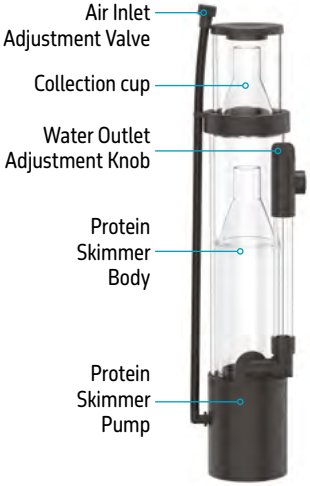
1. Fully open the water outlet adjustment knob before installing the protein skimmer (see image 01).
2. Place the protein skimmer in the protein skimmer chamber as shown in the below diagram. Secure the protein skimmer to the back wall of the aquarium using the suckers (A) provided with the protein skimmer.
3. Place a heater* in the heater chamber next to the protein skimmer as shown below. A clip-on heater bracket (B) is included to allow a submersible heater to be simply located and installed.

TIPS & NOTES

- **Ensure all aquarium decor is correctly prepared before introducing to the First Wave tank.**
- Please note that, when topping up the tank with new saltwater, the saltwater must always be prepared correctly and according to the instructions supplied with your chosen synthetic salt and any water added to the First Wave tank must be at the correct temperature.
- **The water level in the First Wave tank will change.** Ensure that the water level in the tank, the protein skimmer chamber and filtration chamber is always closely monitored.
- **Livestock should NOT be introduced to the First Wave tank until water parameters have been tested and it is safe to do so**. Regularly test the water parameters with reliable test kits and consult your local retailer for further advice if necessary.



SIDE VIEW

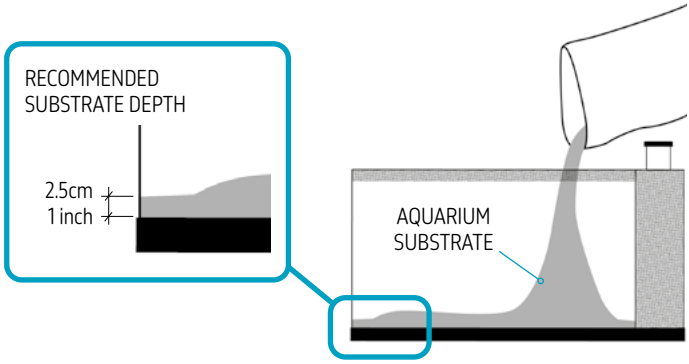


STEP 4
Add sand/substrate and rocks

Carefully pour your selected aquarium substrate into the First Wave tank .

TMC Cemala substrate or TMC EcoSand is recommended.

Ensure all aquarium décor and substrate is correctly prepared according to the instructions supplied with them. For example, for best practice, always rinse thoroughly before use to remove any dust or debris.



If you are planning to add aquarium decor e.g. live rock or replica live rock, position these as required.

You could choose from EcoReef, a more sustainable alternative to real live rock. You can combine various pieces together with the EcoReef boxes like the NANO MIX B or buy a EcoReef Centrepice designed specifically for desktop tanks, like Model 9.

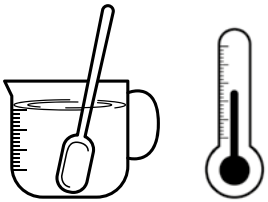
EcoReef
Centrepiece 9

Design for the First Wave 48l

EcoReef
NANO MIX B

Ideal for the First Wave 78l

STEP 5
Make & add saltwater



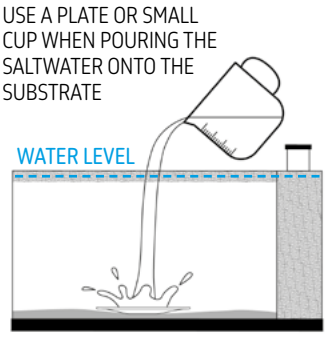
In a clean container, add a **professional grade saltwater mix** to either filtered drinking water or Reverse Osmosis water.

Make sure to follow the instructions on the package until the salt is fully dissolved. We recommend using Reef Salt, designed to create natural reef conditions, as used in-house at TMC's world-class facilities

The prepared saltwater must be at the **correct temperature** for the First Wave tank before adding to the tank.

USEFUL TIP: Alternatively, many marine livestock retailers offer pre-mixed saltwater which can be conveniently purchased in store.

Place a small cup, flat plate or something similar on top of the substrate (to prevent any substrate from being displaced) and carefully pour the prepared saltwater.



Due to various factors such as evaporation, **the water level in the First Wave tank will change. Ensure that the water level in the tank, the protein skimmer chamber and filtration chamber is always closely monitored.**

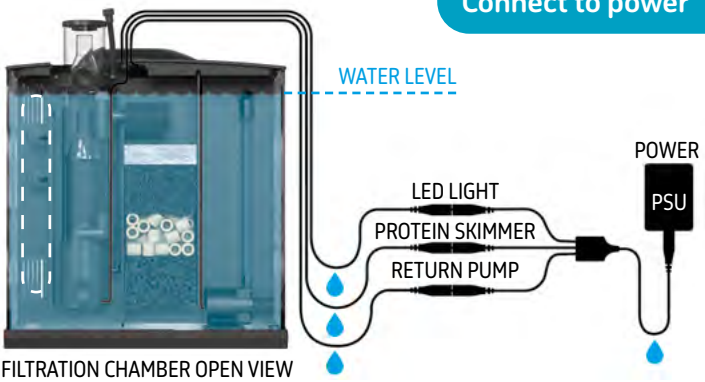
As water evaporates, the salinity level in the tank will also change so ensure that the specific gravity (SG) of the tank is measured using a hydrometer, and the tank is regularly topped up with freshwater or saltwater as necessary to reach the correct specific gravity (SG) and the required water level.

STEP 6
Connect to power

ENSURE ALL COMPONENTS ARE SECURELY INSTALLED BEFORE OPERATING.

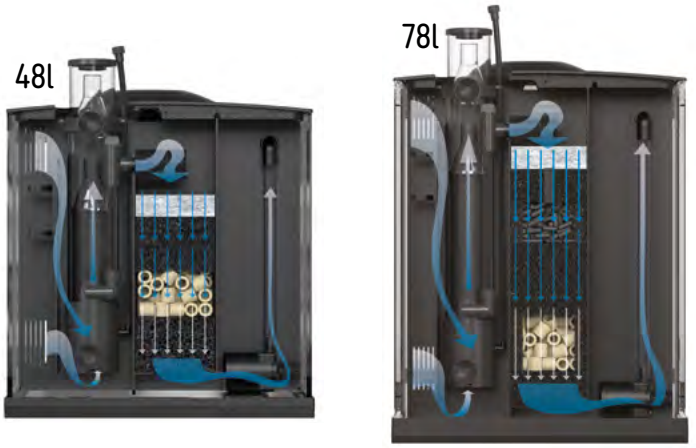
CAUTION: Always leave a drip-loop in all component cables to prevent water running down the cables and reaching the power source.

CAUTION: Always isolate all components from the mains electricity before installing or carrying out any maintenance to the tank.



FILTRATION CHAMBER OPEN VIEW

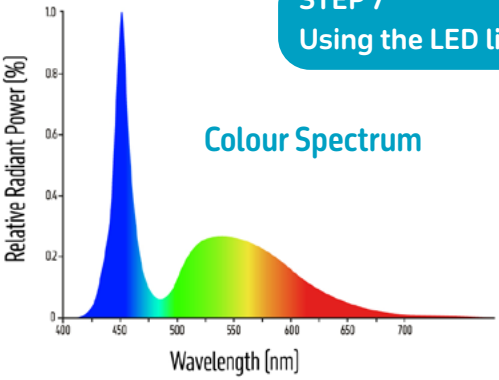
Once the First Wave tank is full of water and ensuring that the protein skimmer chamber, filtration chamber, the return pump and heater chamber are also full of water, plug in and switch all on.



HOW FILTRATION WORKS

Once the water return pump is on, water will be drawn into the protein skimmer and filtration chambers via the water inlets and will pass through the filter sponges and will return back into the tank via the water outlet and the multi-directional nozzle.

Make sure all connections are tightly secured and check for leaks.



The First Wave features a low-voltage DC Reef-Ready LED light with a natural light cycle function, creating the perfect environment for your marine life. Neatly recessed into the aquarium cover, the sleek LED unit houses 34 LEDs for the 48l or 54 LEDs for the 78l size, providing brilliant illumination.

For added convenience, the lid includes an integrated feeding port with a removable flap, allowing effortless feeding without disrupting your First Wave's inhabitants.

Operating the controller

Press the MODE button once
Mode 1: All LEDs power on full power

Press the MODE button again
Mode 2: Only Blue LEDs power on

Press the MODE button again to enter timing mode
Mode 3: Timing Mode - All LEDs power on low power and the following sequence begins, creating a natural lighting cycle for your marine aquarium:

- Sunrise: LEDs ramp up over approximately 15 minutes
- Daylight: LEDs run on full power for approximately 8 hours
- Sunset: LEDs ramp down over approximately 15 minutes
- Moonlight Blue: LEDs power on for approximately 2 hours and then switch off.

Note: The natural lighting cycle will start from the moment you enter Mode 3. If you want the Sunrise sequence to begin at 7.00am you must push the button on the controller at 7.00am to start the lighting cycle. This setting will then be saved.

IN THE EVENT OF A POWER CUT

If the LED is in Mode 3 – Timing Mode, when power resumes the LED light will switch back on and start the Sunrise to Moonlight cycle from the beginning. Repeat the Mode 3 set-up above to go back to your preferred cycle timing.

TIPS & NOTES

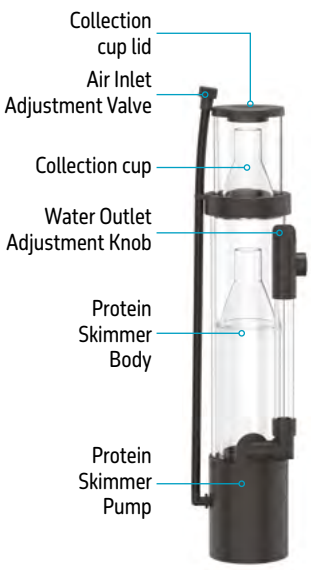
- With any adjustments made, ensure that the water level in the main protein skimmer body is closely monitored to ensure the collection cup is not flooded.

  CAUTION: Failure to do so could result in water overflowing onto the floor.

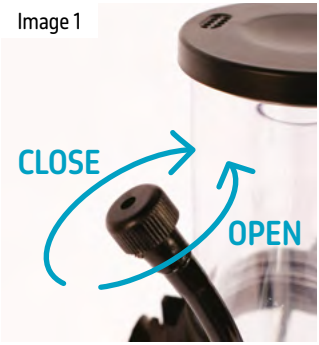
- **BE PATIENT!** When any adjustments are made to the air inlet adjustment valve on the protein skimmer, it will take a few moments for the micro-bubbles and water level within the protein skimmer to settle and become stable. It is perfectly normal for the protein skimmer to take a few days to become established and stable.

- **VARIABLES** such as introducing new micro corals or micro invertebrates into the tank, frequent feeding, adding supplements or medications, fluctuations in water quality, water changes and maintenance may temporarily alter the performance of the protein skimmer.

STEP 8
Protein Skimmer Operation



1. Ensure the protein skimmer collection cup and lid are securely and correctly positioned. Failure to do so could result in leaks.
2. Carefully turn the air inlet adjustment valve (Image 1) on the protein skimmer in an anti-clockwise direction until the micro-bubbles can be seen to just enter the base of the collection cup cone (Image 1a).



3. The water outlet adjustment knob can also be used to lower the water level (turning clockwise) or to raise the water level (turning anti-clockwise) see image 2.
4. With any adjustments made, ensure that the water level in the skimmer body (Image 3) is closely monitored to ensure the collection cup is not flooded. Failure to do so could result in water overflowing onto the floor.

Image 3

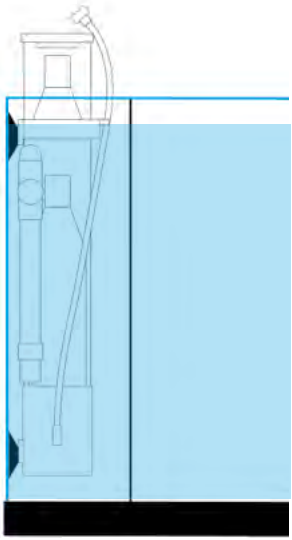
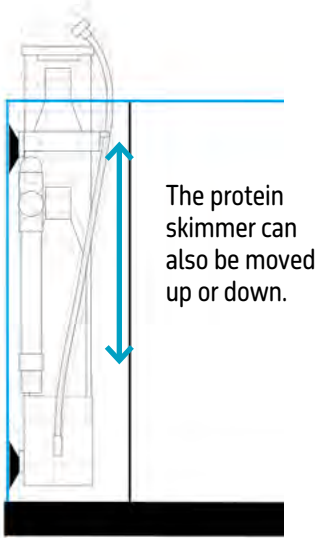


Image 4



5. Allow the protein skimmer to establish itself and if required make further adjustments to the air inlet adjustment valve and/or to the water outlet adjustment knob to control the air and water level within the main skimmer body.

   USEFUL TIP: The protein skimmer can also be moved up or down (Image 4), inside the protein skimmer chamber to further enable the optimum water level inside the protein skimmer body to be achieved.

   NOTE: With any adjustments made, ensure that the water level in the main protein skimmer body is closely monitored to ensure the collection cup is not flooded.

   CAUTION: Failure to do so could result in water overflowing onto the floor.

   NOTE: It is perfectly normally for the protein skimmer to take a few days to become established and stable.

Under normal operating circumstances, due to the size of the First Wave tank, there will generally be very little organic matter or detritus to be removed by the skimmer and filtration system. Therefore the protein skimmer may not always be producing a foam and skimming. This is perfectly normal. As long as the micro-bubbles and water level within the protein skimmer are correct, the protein skimmer will start skimming as soon as organic matter or detritus build up in the First Wave tank.

NOTE: Variables such as introducing new micro corals or micro invertebrates into the tank, frequent feeding, adding supplements or medications, fluctuations in water quality, water changes and maintenance may temporarily alter the performance of the protein skimmer.

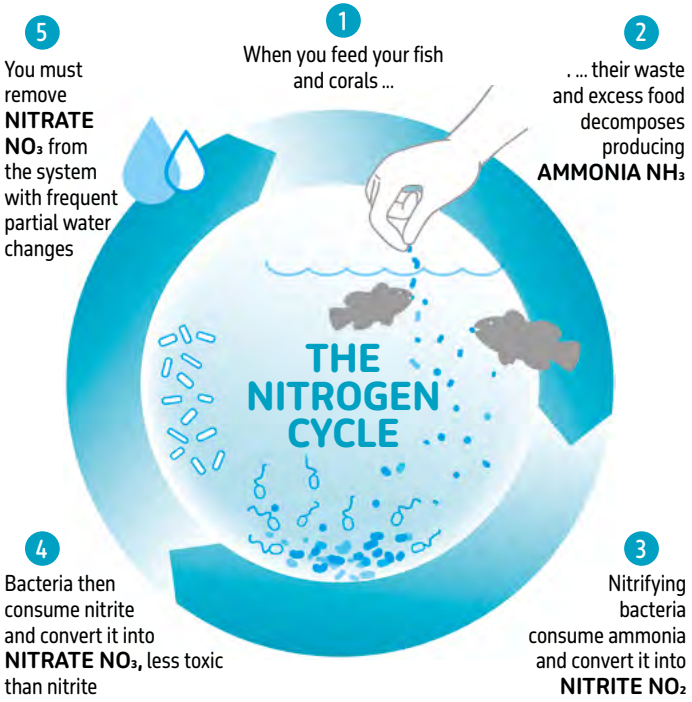
Before adding any fish or coral you need to

CYCLE YOUR AQUARIUM

Test your water at least once a week, to keep everything in balance and your fish & corals SAFE & HEALTHY!

STEP 9
The nitrogen cycle: Cycling your First Wave

To understand what is required to keep a healthy aquarium, you need to understand the nitrogen cycle, where beneficial nitrifying bacteria start building up in your First Wave tank, breaking down harmful ammonia (NH_3), into nitrite (NO_2) and then nitrate (NO_3).



When you set up your First Wave tank, it won't yet have enough helpful bacteria to handle waste from your fish and other livestock.

This means harmful substances like ammonia (NH_3) and nitrites (NO_2) can build up quickly, which can be dangerous for marine life.

To avoid this, you need to "cycle" your tank. Cycling an aquarium is the process of allowing the tank to mature before adding livestock, so it becomes a healthy and stable environment for them. This process can take anywhere from a few days to several weeks and lets beneficial bacteria grow, which help break down waste and keep the water safe.

Over time, good bacteria grow in the filter and substrate, naturally converting ammonia (NH_3) into less harmful substances nitrite (NO_2) and then nitrate (NO_3). If this cycle isn't established, aquarium inhabitants can get sick or even die from toxic water conditions.

Being patient during this process ensures a safe and healthy home for your fish and corals!

How to Cycle Your Tank

There are products available that can speed up the cycling process by adding nitrifying bacteria to your tank. Speak to your LFS (local fish shop) for recommendations if needed.

During cycling, it's important to test your water daily for ammonia, nitrites, and nitrates. This helps you track the progress and know when it's safe to add livestock.

What to Expect

- After about 7–10 days, you should notice ammonia levels rising (a "spike").
- Next, nitrite levels will spike, followed by nitrate levels.
- Once ammonia and nitrites drop back to zero and nitrates are at a safe level, the cycle is complete, and your tank is ready.

  Safe levels to aim for:

PARAMETER	OPTIMAL RANGE
Ammonia	0 ppm
Nitrite (NO_2)	0 ppm
Nitrate (NO_3)	< 10 ppm

Testing Your Water

Testing is an essential part of tank maintenance. It helps you understand what's happening in your tank and alerts to any potential issues. While some local fish shops can test your water for you, it's a good idea to have your own test kits at home—they're affordable and easy to use.

Once the cycling process is complete, you should test your water at least once a week to keep everything in balance and ensure a healthy environment for your marine life.

TIPS & NOTES

Use a suitable alkalinity buffer to stabilize pH between water changes.

Note that Phosphate (PO_4) and Nitrate (NO_3) can contribute to increased algae growth, so monitor and manage them through regular partial water changes.

Regularly perform partial water changes to keep water parameters in check.

GENERAL HUSBANDRY

Water Temperature

Marine organisms are sensitive to temperature fluctuations.

The optimum water temperature for a marine aquarium is 24°C to 26°C (75°F to 79°F). Use a reliable aquarium heater to maintain this range and place a thermometer in the tank to monitor temperature daily.

Avoid placing the tank near windows or heat sources, which can cause temperature fluctuations (see page 5-6).

Water Parameters

Marine aquariums require stable water conditions. Here are the ideal water parameters for a beginner-friendly marine setup:

PARAMETER	OPTIMUM RANGE	NOTES
Salinity	33-35 ppt (parts per thousand)	Measured by: hydrometer or refractometer
Specific Gravity	1.023 - 1.025 (at 25C/77°F)	
pH	8.1 - 8.4	Measured by: pH test kit or digital pH meter
Ammonia (NH_3)	0 ppm	Measured by: Ammonia test kit
Nitrite (NO_2)	0 ppm	Measured by: Nitrite test kit
Nitrate (NO_3)	< 5 ppm	For reef tanks with corals Measured by: Nitrate test kit
	< 10 ppm	For fish-only tanks Measured by: Nitrate test kit
Alkalinity (KH)	8 - 12 dKH (degrees of carbonate hardness)	Maintains pH stability & coral growth Measured by: Alkalinity test kit
Phosphate (PO_4)	< 0.03 ppm (for corals)	High levels cause algae growth Measured by: Phosphate test kit
	< 0.1 ppm (for fish)	
Calcium (Ca)	380 - 450 ppm	Important for coral growth Measured by: Calcium test kit
Magnesium (Mg)	1200 - 1350 ppm	Helps maintain calcium & alkalinity balance Measured by: Magnesium test kit

Why Test Kits Are Essential for Your Aquarium

Test kits are one of the most important tools for keeping your tank healthy. Even if your water looks perfectly clear, it could still be harmful to your marine life. A test kit helps you check water quality so you can act quickly if something isn't right.

What to Test For:

- **Fish-Only Tank:** Test for ammonia, nitrite, nitrate, and pH.
- **Fish-Only with Live Rock:** In addition to the above, test for phosphate, as high phosphate levels can lead to slimy algae.
- **Reef Tank:** You'll need to test for everything listed above, plus calcium, magnesium, and alkalinity. These extra parameters are crucial for keeping corals healthy and thriving.

IMPORTANT : Please consult your LFS for advice on the specific water parameters, salinity and temperature of your chosen livestock species.

Top Tips
for choosing test kits:

1. **Go for liquid test kits**—they're the most accurate and provide the best value for money with plenty of tests in each kit.
2. **Keep some remedies on hand**, like phosphate remover if levels get too high, or calcium supplements to maintain proper levels.
3. **Regular testing will help you stay on top of your tank's water quality**, making it easier to provide the perfect environment for your marine life to flourish!

IMPORTANT

The First Wave tank is designed for smaller-scale marine life and, due to its size, is not suitable for all ornamental aquarium fish. For guidance, please refer to the Recommended Species on page 25.

Please take the time to thoroughly research their specific habitat needs of fish, invertebrate and corals you are planning to add to your First Wave, including temperature and water parameters. Ensure the right conditions before introducing them will help keep your tank thriving and your marine life healthy.

*If you're ever unsure, your LFS will be happy to provide advice and support.

STEP 12
Adding Livestock

Once you have ensured that the appropriate water conditions for your chosen fish, invertebrate and/or corals are met, and the water parameters are stable, including salinity, temperature and pH general husbandry, it's time to add your First Wave inhabitants!

In marine aquariums it is important to **acclimatise fish separately from corals and invertebrates** as the sea water that they are delivered in is likely to have different salinity and other values. Also, some **fish water may also contain copper which is highly toxic to invertebrates.**

Invertebrates are more sensitive to salinity fluctuations and osmotic shock can cause them to implode if they are acclimated too quickly.

DO & DON'T

- **DON'T expose marine livestock to air.**
- **DON'T overstock the tank*.**
- **DO dim the light!** Bright light will cause severe stress to the livestock. Turn off your aquarium lights and dim the lights in the room where your new livestock is to be acclimated before starting acclimation.
- **DO take your time.** Many marine creatures are unable to cope with rapid changes in water parameters so make sure you acclimate SLOWLY.

Temperature fluctuations in a marine system are the main cause of white spot on fish, and bleaching in corals. Tropic Marin Pro-Tect can be used when acclimating as it helps to increase immunity and reduce stress.

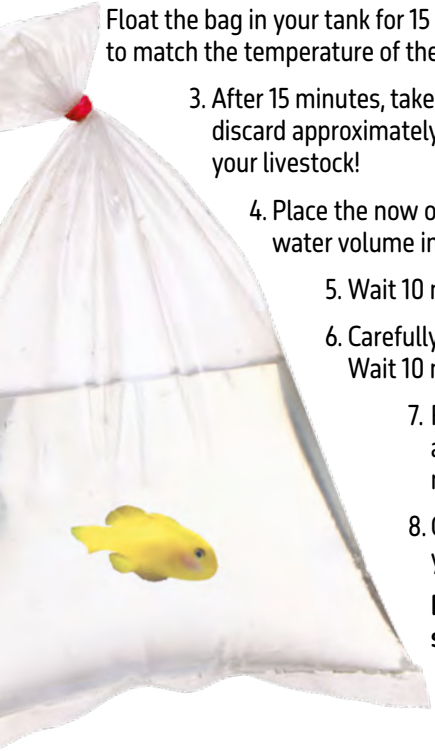
Please ensure you make a note of how much water your acclimation bucket or container holds before starting acclimation so you can calculate the correct amount of Pro-Tect you need to add later. Larger bottles of Pro-Tect are available from your LFS.

Acclimation

Marine creatures, are unable to cope with rapid changes in water parameters so acclimating them is an important procedure.

Please follow these steps carefully and make sure you acclimate **SLOWLY.**

1. Place the sealed bag containing your marine livestock into your First Wave tank.



2. Float the bag in your tank for 15 minutes allowing the temperature of the water in the bag to match the temperature of the water in your First Wave tank.
3. After 15 minutes, take the bag out of your tank, cut the top off and carefully discard approximately 50% of the water in the bag. Make sure you don't pour out your livestock!
4. Place the now opened bag back in the First Wave tank, now increase the water volume in the bag by 25% using only water from your tank.
5. Wait 10 minutes and repeat step 3 so that the bag is now full again.
6. Carefully discard 50% of the water in the bag and repeat steps 3-4. Wait 10 minutes.
7. Remove the bag from the First Wave tank, carefully discard as much water as possible from the bag while ensuring your marine livestock remains submerged in the bag.
8. Carefully release the marine livestock into your First Wave tank.

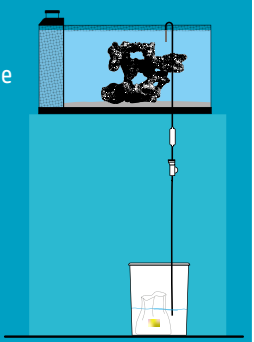
Keep a close watch on your fish and corals while they settle in during acclimation.

USEFUL TIP

Drip Acclimation Method

Drip Acclimation Kit – A simple yet professional solution for gently acclimating new livestock to your aquarium's water parameters.

- **Siphon Starter & Flow Indicator** – Quickly starts the siphon while providing a clear visual of water flow.
- **Rigid Connecting Pipe** – Securely fits over the aquarium edge for easy setup.
- **Flexible Tubing & Suction Cup Clip** – Ensures a stable connection.
- **Water Control Valve** – One-handed operation for precise flow adjustment.
- **10ml Tropic Marin PRO-TECT** – Boosts immunity, reduces stress, and stabilises water chemistry.



*ALL animals will eventually outgrow a tank of this size, corals must be maintained and 'pruned' as necessary, while fish and invertabrates will need more space as they grow.

Check livestock compatibility with the FAViA app!

tmc FAViA Powered by OpenAI

DOWNLOAD FREE NOW

GET IT ON Google Play | Download on the App Store

RECOMMENDED SPECIES*

Suitable species for the First Wave aquariums

This list is not comprehensive. For more advice on suitable species and coral care, please consult your LFS - local fish shop.

Fish	
Common name	**Latin name**
Barnacle Blenny	*Acanthemblemaria macrospilus*
Bicolour Blenny	*Escenius bicolor*
Blue Assessor	*Assessor macneilli*
Blue Neon Goby	*Elacatinus oceanops*
Bluestreak Pygmy Basslet	*Pseudochromis springeri*
Christmas Goby	*Gobiosoma multifasciatum*
Court Jester Goby	*Amblygobius rainfordi*
False Gramma	*Pictichromis paccagnellae*
Flashback Pygmy Basslet	*Pictichromis diadema*
Gold Neon Goby	*Elacatinus evelynae*
Goldstreak Blenny	*Escenius stigmatura*
Green Clown Goby	*Gobiodon histrio*
Hi Fin Banded Goby	*Stonogobiops xanthorhinica*
Hi Fin Clown Goby	*Stonogobiops yashia*
Hi Fin Checker Hawkfish	*Plectranthias inermis*
Hi Fin Nano Goby	*Discordipinna griessingeri*
Indigo Pygmy Basslet	*Pseudochromis fridmani x springeri*
Midnight Coral Goby	*Gobiodon ceramensis*
Nano Goby-Red Speckled	*Trimma macrophthalmus*
Orchid Pygmy Basslet	*Pseudochromis fridmani*
Pinstripe Pyjama Wrasse	*Pseudocheilinops ataenia*
Strawberry Pygmy Basslet	*Pictichromis porphyreus*
Yellow Assessor	*Assessor flavissimus*
Yellow Goby	*Gobiodon okinawae*
Zebra Goby	*Priolepis nocturna*

Invertebrates	
Common name	**Latin name**
Anemone Crab	*Neopetrolisthes ohshimai*
Banded Trochus Snail	*Trochus histrio*
Blue Leg Hermit Crab	*Clibanarius tricolor*
Boxing Shrimps	*Stenopus hispidus*

Boxer Crab	*Lybia tesselata*
Bumblebee Shrimp	*Gnathophyllum americanum*
Bumblebee Snail	*Engina mendicaria*
Cerith Snail	*Cerithium sp.*
Christmas Tree Worm	*Bispira spp.*
Cleaner Shrimp	*Lysmata amboinensis*
Common Rock Hermit Crab	*Clibanarius spp.*
Crystal Shrimp	*Periclimenes sp.*
Emerald Mithrax Crab	*Mithraculus sculptus*
Feather Duster	*Sabellastarte spp.*
Feather Worm Colony	*Bispira brunnea*
Money Cowrie	*Cypraea moneta*
Orange Leg Hermit Crab	*Clibanarius sp.*
Orange Marble Snail	*Nassarius spp.*
Peppermint Shrimp	*Lysmata wurdemanni*
Red Starfish	*Fromia indica*
Rock Red Leg Hermit Crab	*Paguristes cadenati*
Sexy Shrimp	*Thor amboinensis*
Turbo Snail	*Astrea tectum*
Zebra Hermit Crab	*Calcinus laevimanus*

Soft Corals

Common name	**Latin name**
Asparagus tip	*Caprella spp.*
Toadstool Coral	*Sarcophyton spp.*
Sea Fan	*Gorgonia spp.*

Mushrooms

Common name	**Latin name**
Blue Mushroom	*Actinodiscus spp.*
Red Mushroom	*Discosoma cardinalis*

Fleshy Hard Corals

Common name	**Latin name**
Acans Coral	*Acanthastrea spp.*
Brain Coral	*Trachyphyllia spp.*
Cushion Coral	*Cynarina spp.*

PLEASE NOTE:

- Additional lighting may be required for some of these species to ensure optimum colour and growth.
- Soft corals grow more quickly than other types of coral and must be trimmed.

Polyps	
Common name	**Latin name**
Button Polyp	*Zoanthus spp.*
Jasmin Star Polyp	*Cervera Sspp.*
Star Polyp	*Xenia spp.*
LPS Hard Coral	
Common name	**Latin name**
Chalice Coral	*Echinophyllia spp.*
Cornet Coral	*Euphyllia glabrescens*
Daisy Coral	*Alveopora spp.*
Duncan's coral	*Duncanopsammia spp.*
Hammer Coral	*Euphyllia spp.*
Pipe Coral	*Blastomussa spp.*
Plate Coral	*Fungia spp.*
Pom Pom Coral	*Goniopora spp.*
Trumpet Coral	*Caulastraea spp.*

PLEASE NOTE

ALL animals will eventually outgrow a tank of this size, corals must be maintained and 'pruned' as necessary, while fish and invertabrates will need more space as they grow.

FEEDING YOUR MARINE FISH & CORALS

A varied diet is essential to keep fish and corals healthy and happy. Here's what to know about different food types:

- **Dry Food** (Flake, Pellets, Granules): Great as a staple food, enriched with nutrients. Feed daily.
- **Frozen Food:** Includes options like brine shrimp, krill, and mussels. Popular with marine fish as they resemble natural diets. Thaw before feeding.
- **Live Food:** Perfect for picky eaters or predators needing live prey. Includes river shrimp, artemia, and copepods. Live food is ideal for corals too.
- **Seaweed:** Designed for herbivores. Comes in dried sheets that can be clipped to the tank.
- **Paste Food:** A mouldable paste that can be stuck to rocks or glass. Encourages natural grazing behaviour.
- **Coral Food:** Feed corals daily with phytoplankton (plant-based) and zooplankton (animal-based) for healthy growth. Store wet foods in the fridge once opened.

By tailoring the diet to your tank's inhabitants and feeding regularly, you'll create a thriving and balanced environment for both fish and corals.

Discover the **TMC Gamma and Nutramar food ranges** – expertly crafted for your fish, corals, and invertebrates. Backed by 50+ years of reef-keeping expertise, it's nutrition you can trust!

Learn more: **tropicalmarinecentre.co.uk**

Distributed in the USA by: **qualitymarine.com**

CAUTION

To avoid possible electric shock, special care should be taken when using electrical appliances near water.

Always isolate the LED lighting system, the water return pump, the protein skimmer and the heater from the mains electricity before installing or carrying out any maintenance to the First Wave tank.

TIPS & NOTES

We **highly recommend** that you purchase a good marine keeping reference book to gain further knowledge on how to keep your marine livestock in optimum condition and to ensure an enjoyable and successful marine-keeping experience.

A full range of spares and accessories is available to complement the First Wave tank. Please see your LFS - TMC stockist for further information or visit:

tropicalmarinecentre.com

MAINTENANCE

1. To operate efficiently, the water return pump, the protein skimmer and the heater must be operated 24 hours a day.
2. For optimum results we recommend that the LED lighting system is operated for up to 10 hours per day.
3. Regularly check to make sure all connections are tightly secured.
4. Check regularly that the protein skimmer is functioning properly and the micro-bubbles and water level within the protein skimmer are correct.

   CAUTION: Failure to do so could result in water overflowing onto the floor.
5. When the collection cup is full, ensure all waste material is removed and the collection cup is cleaned.

   CAUTION: Failure to do so could result in water overflowing onto the floor.
6. Periodically remove the collection cup and clean any organic build up or salt and/or calcium deposits from the collection cup.
7. Ensure the water outlet on the protein skimmer is clean and free of blockages.

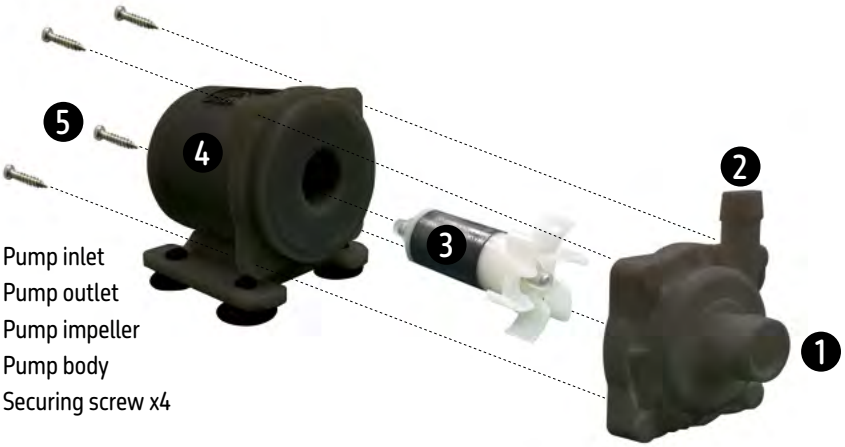
   CAUTION: Failure to do so could result in water overflowing onto the floor.

   USEFUL TIP: Any blockages or detritus in the main protein skimmer body should be removed by simply rinsing the protein skimmer with warm water under a running tap.
8. When carrying out a water change, rinse out the filter sponges/filter pad in the water removed from the tank (NEVER use tap water). Periodically replace the filter sponges and filter pad

   NOTE: Avoid rinsing or replacing all sponges and filter pad at the same time to ensure minimal loss of essential bacteria.
9. Clean the water return pump and protein skimmer pump regularly to ensure they do not become clogged with debris or detritus and function correctly (see next page).
10. Ensure that the water inlets, water outlet, water outlet tubing and multi-directional water outlet are clean and free of blockages.

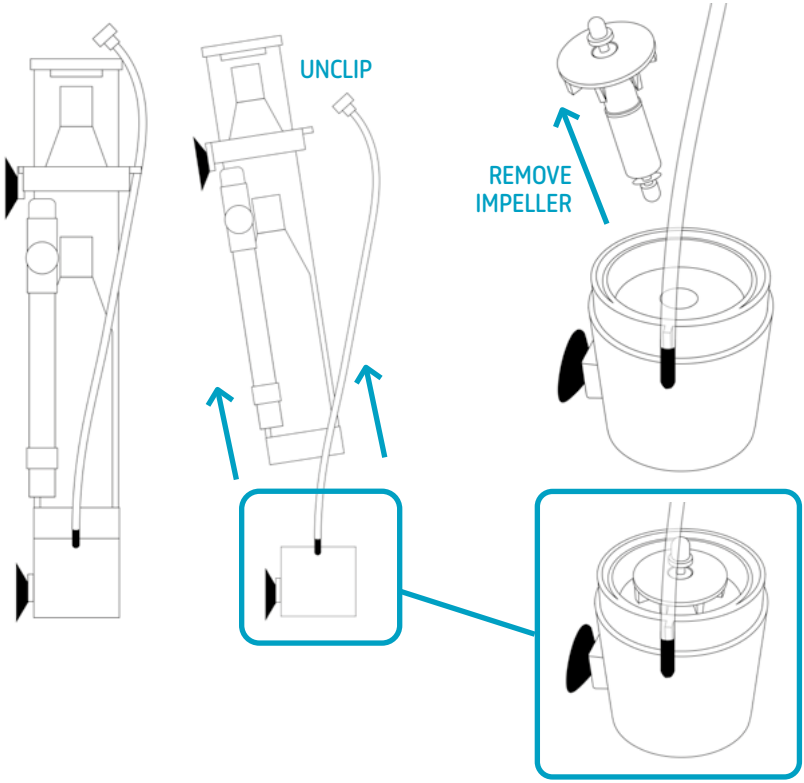
    CAUTION: Failure to do so could result in operating problems.
11. Regularly clean the inside and outside of the First Wave tank.

Return pump



1. Pump inlet
2. Pump outlet
3. Pump impeller
4. Pump body
5. Securing screw x4

Protein skimmer pump



DAILY

- Feed fish and corals appropriately (avoid overfeeding).
- Using a net, remove any excess food or other debris as needed
- Check water temperature (ensure it stays within the recommended range for your livestock).
- Check water level and top up evaporated water with RODI (Reverse Osmosis Deionized) water to maintain correct salinity.
- Check all equipment (protein skimmer, return pump, heater etc) to ensure all are functioning correctly
- Empty the protein skimmer cup
- Observe fish and corals for signs of stress, disease, or unusual behaviour.

WEEKLY

- Check salinity level
- Test water parameters (salinity, pH, ammonia, nitrite, nitrate, and phosphate).
- Clean algae from glass and decor using an aquarium-safe algae magnet and/or soft soft brush
- Clean the outside of the aquarium using a soft cloth
- Empty and clean the protein skimmer cup by rinsing with tap water and wiping clean with hands or a soft cloth
- Perform a 10% water change using properly mixed and aerated saltwater. Or carry out a 20% water change every two weeks
- Carefully siphon the substrate to remove any uneaten food, debris or detritus
- Check and clean filter media (rinse in removed tank water if necessary, to preserve beneficial bacteria).
- Wipe down lid and make sure feeding port and air vent areas are clean
- Check and calibrate refractometer or hydrometer to ensure accurate salinity readings.
- Trim and maintain corals if they are overgrowing.

MONTHLY

- Deep clean the return pump and skimmer pump, rinse all parts with fresh water and using a soft brush to remove any debris/detritus inside, then re-assemble
- Check the return pump impeller and protein skimmer pump impeller for signs of degradation and replace as necessary.
  Please Note: The impellers are not covered under the guarantee
- Inspect all equipment for wear and tear, and replace parts if necessary.
- Replace filter media if needed (but don't replace all at once)
- Check and clean the LED light to remove salt creep or dust.

Glossary

Cycling

Over time, good bacteria grow in the filter and substrate, naturally converting ammonia (NH_3) into less harmful substances nitrite (NO_2) and then nitrate (NO_3). If this cycle isn't established, aquarium inhabitants can get sick or even die from toxic water conditions.

Being patient during this process ensures a safe and healthy home for your fish and corals!

Hydrometer or refractometer

A saltwater hydrometer is a tool used to measure the specific gravity (SG) or salinity of saltwater. It helps ensure proper salt concentrations, which is crucial for applications like marine aquariums, oceanographic research, and aquaculture.

How It Works:

The hydrometer floats in water, and its reading depends on the density of the liquid.
Higher salinity = Higher density = Higher floatation
The specific gravity of natural seawater is typically around 1.025 at 25°C (77°F).

Types of Saltwater Hydrometers:

- **Floating Hydrometer** - A glass or plastic tube that floats at different levels based on water density.
- **Swing Arm Hydrometer** - A plastic device with a pivoting arm that indicates the salinity level.
- **Refractometer** (Alternative to Hydrometer) - Uses light refraction for more precise salinity measurement.

LFS

LFS is an acronym for your **Local Fish Shop**

Protein Skimmer

A protein skimmer is a device used in reef aquariums to remove waste, excess nutrients, and organic compounds from the water. It works by creating micro bubbles that attract and trap waste, forming a foam that is collected and removed, helping to keep the water clean and healthy for marine life.

Residual Current Device (RCD)

A Residual Current Device (RCD) is a safety device designed to prevent electric shocks and reduce the risk of electrical fires by quickly cutting off power if it detects a leakage of current to the ground.

Water Chemistry

Water chemistry in reef aquariums refers to the balance of key parameters such as pH, salinity, alkalinity, calcium, magnesium, and nutrient levels (like nitrates and phosphates). Maintaining stable water chemistry is essential for the health of corals and marine life, ensuring a thriving and stable ecosystem.

10 Reasons to Choose Tropical Marine Centre Fish & Corals for Your First Marine Aquarium

Starting your marine aquarium journey? Here's why Tropical Marine Centre (TMC) is the perfect choice for high-quality, responsibly sourced fish and corals:

Sustainably Sourced, Ethically Traded – We're committed to responsible marine life collection, ensuring healthy oceans for future generations.

Guaranteed Legal & Traceable Supply – Every fish and coral comes from a verified, legal source, giving you complete peace of mind.

Unrivalled Choice – With over 1,800 species from 38 countries, including rare finds, you'll have access to an incredible selection.

Supporting Local Communities – We work closely with suppliers near the reefs, providing well-equipped facilities to ensure the best care for marine life.

Shorter Supply Chain, Healthier Livestock – Our streamlined process means fish and corals arrive in peak condition, reducing stress and improving survival rates.

Hand-Picked for You – Retailers can select the best fish and corals to match your aquarium's needs, ensuring the perfect fit.

Complete Transparency – Our in-store labelling system provides detailed information on each species, so you always know what you're buying.

Backed by 50+ Years of Expertise – With decades of marine-keeping knowledge, we're here to help every step of the way.

Smart Support at Your Fingertips – Our website and Favia App offer a species database, live chat, and AI-powered compatibility checks to make marine keeping easier than ever.

Find TMC Fish & Corals Near You – Our online 'Find a Dealer' tool helps you locate a trusted retailer stocking TMC livestock.

With TMC, you're choosing healthier, happier marine life while supporting ethical trade and sustainability, by responsibly following the 5 animal welfare needs .

Ready to start your reef-keeping journey?
Visit your local TMC retailer today!

www.tropicalmarinecentre.com

Hand-picked TMC Favourites for Your Aquarium:

Accessories

1. TMC Acclimation Kit
2. TMC Algae Magnet nano

Hardscape

1. EcoReef Rock Centrepiece 09, NANO MIX A or B
2. EcoReef Rock
3. EcoReef Cemala Substrate

Equipment

1. Therm Heater 50W (48l) or 100W (78l)
2. Reef Flow 2.0 1000nano or Reef Flow 2.0 2000nano
3. TMC Auto Top-up x 1 Float Switch
4. TMC Optical Auto Top Up
5. TMC Refractometer Salinity & Specific Gravity

Water Chemistry

1. Tropic Marin Classic Sea Salt
2. TMC Reef Salt
3. Tropic Marin All-For-Reef
4. Salifert Profi Test Kits (various test kits available)

Food

1. TMC GAMMA Dry Food range
2. TMC GAMMA Liquid Food range
3. TMC GAMMA Frozen Food range

tropical marine centre

tropicalmarinecentre.com
info@tropicalmarinecentre.co.uk

UK
Solesbridge Lane
Chorleywood
Hertfordshire WD3 5SX
England

Call +44 **(0)1923 284151**

Europe
Rua Cidade de Paris 6
Parque Industrial do Arneiro
2660-456 São Julião do Tojal
Portugal

Call +351 **219 739 140**