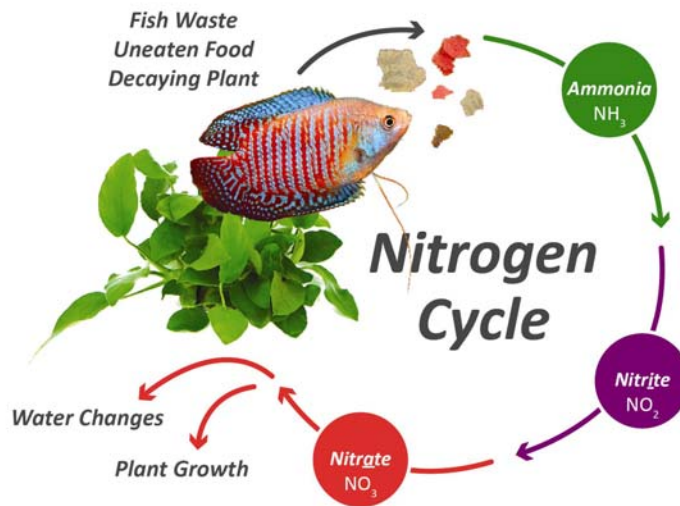


New Tank Setup | Nitrogen Cycle



It takes 3-5 weeks for the bacteria required by the nitrogen cycle to develop in the filter. If you have too many fish initially, the ammonia and nitrite levels will rise too fast because of a lack of bacteria to break them down. The fish cannot tolerate these high levels of toxins and they become ill and die.

We recommend adding only a small number of fish initially, to allow the bacteria time to multiply to cope with the added waste. Food should also be fed sparingly for the same reason. During this establishment period, regular partial water changes of approx 20-30% should be performed to ensure any toxins that are not converted due to a lack of bacteria are diluted. Filters should be left alone during this period to avoid destroying developing bacteria.

You can use test kits to monitor the progress during the tanks establishment period. Test the pH level, ammonia and nitrite content of your water to make sure its safe to add more fish to your tank. If you bring us a 300mL sample of your water we can test it for you free of charge.

Additional notes

- Fish, like people, are not always compatible and cannot all live together, so always ask if the fish you already have are compatible with the ones you intend on adding.
- Filters should only ever be cleaned using old aquarium water to prevent killing of essential bacteria. Only a portion of the filter media should be changed at any time, never all. Never use hot water, untreated tap water or detergents.

