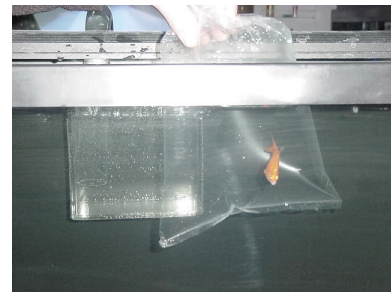


Acclimating New Aquarium Livestock

Floating Bag Acclimation Procedure:

This procedure is done when acclimating all new livestock to an aquarium. It can be done with fresh or saltwater fish and inverts. If the particular specimen that you are acclimating is delicate or expensive you may want to consider the Drip Acclimation Procedure listed below.

- Turn off aquarium light.
- Dim the lights in the room where the bag or shipping box will be opened. Never open the box in bright light - severe stress or trauma may result from sudden exposure to bright light.
- Float the sealed bag in the aquarium for 15 minutes. Never open the shipping bag at this time. This step allows the water in the bag to adjust slowly to the temperature in the aquarium, while maintaining a high level of dissolved oxygen.
- After floating the sealed shipping bag for 15 minutes, open the bag by undoing the elastic band trying not to break the band.
- Look at the bag with the fish in it and estimate the volume of water. Add 1/3 of that volume of tank water to the bag and reseal with the elastic band.
- Repeat this step every 10 minutes until the bag is almost full.
- Net aquatic life from the shipping bag and release into the aquarium.
- Remove the filled shipping bag from the aquarium and discard the water. Never release shipping water directly into the aquarium as this is a potential mode of disease transfer to your aquarium.



Drip Acclimation Method:

- Turn off lights on aquarium.
- Dim lights in the room where fish is acclimating.
- Place the fish in the bag in a bucket.
- Get a 5-6' length of airline tube and tie a slight knot in the end of the line.
- Start a siphon in the line and allow it to drip into the bag, overflowing into the bucket.
- Drip water into the bag/bucket for 30-40 minutes.
- When time is up, net fish out of bucket and place in the aquarium, leave tank lights off for 24 hours.
- Discard bucket water.

Tips:

- If the ambient temperature in the room is low, a small heater will help maintain the temp over the acclimation period.
- A small air pump with air stone placed in the bucket will also assist in keeping the oxygen levels up.