

SOMETHING FISHY, INC.

Something Fishy University
Extension Courses
Aquarium Lighting 101



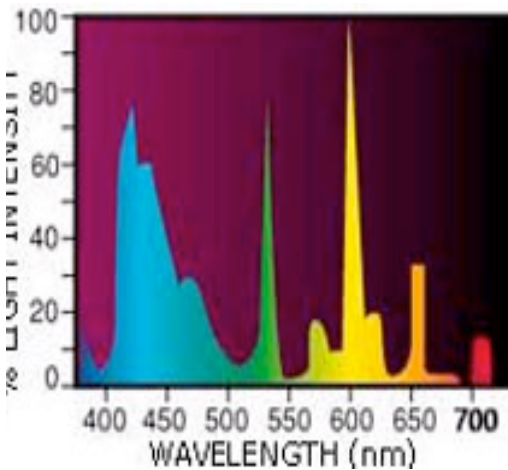
What type of light does my Aquarium need?

For most freshwater aquariums a simple strip light is more than adequate to illuminate the inhabitants. If you have a freshwater planted aquarium, saltwater fish only with live rock, or a saltwater reef, the lighting will need to be more substantial.

How long should my aquarium light be on?

In any aquarium a photoperiod of no more than 8-10 hours is needed. Any longer than that will result in excessive algae build up and can stress fish out. If there are just fish in the aquarium many people will get a timer and set it for when they are around the aquarium the most.

18000K Power Glo Bulb



All the bulbs emit different colors of light? Which one is best for my aquarium?

It depends on the type of organisms that are in the aquarium and to some degree what color of light you want to look at. Every aquarium light bulb will have a spectral output plot on the packaging some where you can find a graph of the relative amount or intensities of specific wavelengths of light. The higher the peak on the graph, the greater the amount of that color of light. All bulbs will have a Color Temperature, measured in degrees Kelvin, which is in essence an average of all of the peaks on a spectral plot. The higher the K rating the more blue the light will look. The lower ratings will have a yellowish hue. Care must be taken to target the right spectrum based upon the inhabitants of the tank.

How often do I need to change my light bulbs?

All light bulbs will degrade in spectrum as they age. As bulbs degrade the spectrum of light that they put out will begin to shift and produce light heavy in the red and orange spectrums. This is very subtle to the human eye but can have drastic affects to the appearance of the aquarium as it is these wavelengths of light that algae will thrive on. Aquariums with live corals and/or live plants are dependant upon getting the right spectrum of light for growth; therefore in order to be successful in keeping these organisms, a strict bulb changing regime must be adhered to.

Recommended Bulb Replacement Schedule	
Linear Bi-Pin Fluorescent	1 Year
Compact Fluorescent	6 Months
Metal Halide	6 Months
LED's	40,000-50,000 Hours

Please see a Sales Associate for additional assistance selecting appropriate lighting for your aquarium.

They type of aquarium I Have is a: SWFO, REEF, FW, PLANTED
My Aquarium needs _____ watts Per gallon.

My Aquariums Light Fixture is a _____.
The Bulbs that it uses are _____.

Checklist: (not all needed for every type of light)

Mounting Hardware

Hanging Kit

Timer

Glass Top

Support Legs