

# SOMETHING FISHY, INC.

## Aquariums and Fire Safety



Any time water and electricity are found close proximity the potential for danger is great. There are several pre-cautions that every aquarium owner should follow to limit the risk of livestock loss, electrical shock, and fire hazards.

**Appropriate Circuit Loading:** Ensure that the circuit that the aquarium is running off of can handle the load of all of the equipment. Most household circuits are rated at 15 or 20 amps. Every piece of aquarium equipment will have a sticker that informs you what its electrical draw is. Add up the wattage of all the equipment to get a total amount of wattage draw that your aquarium will use. Metal halide lights use a lot of amperage on start up but then tail off as the bulb warms up. Use the max draw amps in your totals to ensure that you are within your circuit loading capacity. Don't forget to add this to any non-aquarium items that also may be on the same circuit. Factor 1 amp per 100 watts. If the total number of amps is more than the rating of your circuit, this could be a potential hazard.

**Use GFCI Outlets/Adapters:** A GFCI, or Ground Fault Current Interrupter should trip if there area electrical shorts detected in the system. This single piece of equipment can help prevent the start of most electrical fires.

**Mount or Hang Power Strips:** Most people will use a power strip, either due to the lack of electrical receptacles or due to the large amount of items needed to plug in to run their aquarium. Power strips should be mounted on the side wall of the stand, ensuring that they don't sit in a puddle if a spill were to occur.

**Drip Loops:** All equipment either being plugged into a power strip or a wall receptacle should have drip loop. A drip loop ensures that if water would run down the cord, it will not run directly into the outlet.

**Control Salt Creep:** All Aquariums, notably saltwater aquariums, will experience issues with salt creep. Salt creep occurs when you have minerals in solution that begin to deposit on to hard surfaces over time. The more evaporation that occurs, the more mineral buildup will occur. Keeping it wiped down will on a regular schedule will keep it looking tip top!

**Clear Out Dust Bunnies:** Dust bunnies will attract moisture and thusly salt creep. Dust can clog pump motor housings and chiller cooling fins, reducing efficiency or cause equipment failure. Doing a quarterly dust removal service with a warm damp cloth or a shop vac will do the trick.