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Tank Cleaning Procedures

Classroom Aquarium Education Program

Wipe and clean the tank and supplies by soaking in a dilute solution of one eighth cup of household vinegar in each ten gallon tank of water. Rinse the equipment well with a garden hose after soaking. A half cap full of pure unscented chlorine in a ten gallon tank of water will work as well but will require an even more thorough rinsing. Leftover chemical residue can be harmful to fish in the following season. The tank should be sterile and chemical free while in use and you shouldn't use any other chemicals for cleaning. Take apart the air and filter parts to rinse and air dry. New or used rocks can be boiled for sterilization and then dried in the sun. You can dip used gravel in the dilute vinegar solution with a colander and then rinse and spread them on a tray in the sun to completely air dry. If you wrap the cleaned, rinsed and dried tank and supplies in a garbage bag it will keep it dust free until next time. Do not use the tank for other purposes or organisms in the off season