



Water Changes using a Hose

A very easy and straightforward way of removing water from your aquarium is to use a hose for your water change. You will need a plastic pipe U-bend as illustrated below. By attaching this to the front of your hose, you can prevent the entire aquarium water draining out, should you get distracted and forget to check the progress. Using a U-bend, no more than half the aquarium water would drain out.) Ideally, you should exchange 1/3 of the aquarium water 1 x per week, using **cold tap water**. Please **do not use warm tap water**, as this will often contain traces of copper, from your hot water tank. When exchanging only 1/3 of the total water, your discus fish should have no problems coping with the drop in temperature.

To drain the aquarium water, place the plastic pipe U-bend (connected to the hose) in the aquarium. The hose should be connected to the shorter arm of the U-bend. To create the vacuum which will draw out the aquarium water, you need to use your mouth to briefly suck on the other end of the hose.



A U-bend is made of GF pipe and has two 90° GF joins (elbows). They are available in stores which stock plumbing supplies. Using a U-bend has the advantage that you can regulate the amount of water that will drain from the aquarium via changing the length of the shorter arm of the U-bend. This also prevents your aquarium from accidentally draining completely! (PHOTO: U-bend)

Allow the aquarium water to drain into a sink or other drain, or into your garden. To prevent smaller fish (e.g. neons) accidentally being suctioned off too, we recommend placing some netting over the opening of the U-bend and fastening it with a rubber band. When re-filling your aquarium, we recommend allowing the tap water to run for about 3-5 minutes, before using it for your aquarium. This will allow old water in the pipes to be flushed out and be replaced with fresher water. By using a hose clamp, you can attach the hose to your tap easily and firmly. Please make sure that your aquarium pump does not run dry and that the heating rod remains underwater, even when the water level sinks. ([see also LINK: Water Changes](#))



Be sure to supervise your aquarium, when using a hose to fill it with water! If the post man should ring at the door, or your phone rings, please turn off the tap straight away. A small distraction can easily cause your aquarium to flood!

Ideally, you should also use the opportunity to clean the aquarium's glass panes (a coarse sponge works well) and cutting back any plants, if required, while you are changing the aquarium water.

Finally, we recommend that you use a piece of (coarse) filter sponge to clean the aquarium glass – especially if you have a curved glass aquarium. This will help prevent any unsightly scratches on the front aquarium pane, which may occur if you use a razor blade scraper. Naturally, you should use this sponge solely for cleaning your aquarium, so that no traces of detergent or cleaning fluid are in the sponge. The same goes for the bucket, which you should also use solely as aquarium cleaning equipment.

You will find this water change method easy and time-saving.