



Water Change 90% Emergency Plan

Exceptional circumstances, which require a complete (90%) water change

If you have detected traces of nitrite, when testing your aquarium water chemistry, you should first halve the feed amounts and not cease feeding straight away. The behaviour of your fish will tell you, when the nitrite level is too high because they will refuse their feed and breathe heavily and quickly. Should you observe this behaviour in your discus fish, you must immediately stop feeding and carry out a 90% water change. Only once the nitrite content and/ or the ammonium content and/ or the ammonia content of your aquarium water has reached zero again, should you gradually begin to feed your fish again.

If your **tap water is very soft** (GH 0 – 5), you may need to carry out water changes more frequently. Also, if the pH value falls from, say, 7.5 to 6.0 you should carry out a water change immediately. Otherwise the pH value – and hence the acidity of your aquarium water – will drop very quickly. If the pH value reaches 3.6, the acidity is so high that it is lethal for your fish.

If the **stocking density of your aquarium is low**, you can reduce the volume of the water you exchange or how frequently you carry out a water change, as appropriate.

When is a 90% water change necessary and how do you carry one out?

A 90% water change is necessary if the aquarium water is toxic for your fish and they are showing signs of poisoning! If your discus fish are “shooting” through the aquarium, it is very likely that this is a sign of poisoning. This can happen, for example, if you feed more than your filter can break down (nitrite poisoning).

To carry out the water change, please use a hose and bucket. Please re-position your filters, so that they **continue to filter the aquarium water for as long as possible** while the water drains and so that they can **resume the filtration of the water as quickly as possible**, when you are re-filling the aquarium. When you re-fill the aquarium, you must use water of a suitable temperature (approx. 28°C / 82°F) so that your fish will not be swimming in cold water. **You will also need to use water from the warm water tap (which has come from your domestic hot water tank). When carrying out a 90% water change, this is unavoidable, as using cold water would pose too great a temperature change for your fish.** Please carefully pour the first buckets of fresh water slowly against the inside of your aquarium wall, as your fish are likely to be nervous due to the low water level and may startle and/ or injure themselves.

[See also LINK: Water Changes](#)

[See also LINK: Power Outage/ Quarantine](#)

[See also LINK: Emergency Kit](#)