



Testing bacterial compatibility of fishes and plants

To test whether you can safely add new plants or companion fish to your aquarium, it is advisable to use a quarantine aquarium and to place these fish and plants in the quarantine aquarium first.

You should then place one of your discus fish as a “test discus” in the quarantine aquarium together with the newcomers for one week.

We strongly advise you to carry out this test procedure before adding any new fish or plant, to eliminate the risk of introducing diseases to your aquarium.

You will require **a quarantine aquarium with the following equipment:**

Complete aquarium set with a capacity of 60 litres / 15 US gallons, with heating, filter, thermometer and aeration stone. See also [LINK: Quarantine](#)

If possible, you should use a discus fish which can change colour (become dark) as a test fish (i.e. not a pigeon blood discus fish).

If a bacterial incompatibility arises, the “test discus” will generally turn dark in colour on the third or fourth day, will clamp its fins and will hide in a corner of the aquarium. If this occurs, it is safest to discard the entire contents of the quarantine aquarium and not to place the fish or plants in your main aquarium.

However, if after one week everything in the quarantine aquarium looks OK, it is generally safe to place the new plants or companion fish into your main aquarium together with the test discus.

Please ensure that no drop of water (via damp hands, hose, bucket, etc.) from the quarantine aquarium gets into your discus aquarium, while carrying out this test phase.