

Healthy Environment in Miniature: Nano Aquarium Tips

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Compact aquarium systems are a good choice for hobbyists of all experience levels. Some are designed as basic starter aquariums, while newer compact aquariums include many advanced features found in larger aquarium systems. However, the smaller volume of water means that all compact aquarium systems have one thing in common: They all require special attention to water quality.

Keep up with routine care

Small aquariums are more susceptible to changes in water parameters. Even slight changes in water quality and temperature can develop into more serious issues. Without prompt and proper consideration, aquariums with a small volume of water can pose greater challenges. Routine [water changes](#) and [regular monitoring](#) of water parameters are a must for all small aquariums. Fortunately, their compact size makes these routine tasks simple.

Be prepared to purchase additional equipment

While filtration and lighting come standard, certain aquarium systems may not include additional equipment. Aquarium [heaters](#) are commonly excluded in these kits so be aware of any additional equipment you may need for your particular setup. Make a checklist of necessary items, including [test kits](#) and [water conditioners](#), to allow ease of setup.

Stock lightly

Avoid stocking your compact aquarium system with too many fish. While it may be tempting to add more fish to your aquarium, smaller water volume means a need for careful selection of inhabitants and proper management of the biological load. Housing a few of your favorite species not only makes your selection more meaningful, it also provides a prudent way to maintain efficient biological filtration and proper water quality.

What is the main benefit of compact aquarium kits?

A: Convenience. These versatile aquariums are designed for easy setup. With filtration and lighting already included, the equipment selection process is much more streamlined. In fact, aquarium kits are becoming more sophisticated to include equipment once sold separately, for an even more comprehensive system.

basic

[2 Gallon Fluval SPEC Aquarium](#)
[Picotope 3 Gallon Aquarium Kit](#)

Often regarded as starter aquarium kits, these systems are suited for beginner hobbyists. They are a great way to introduce younger or new hobbyists to the fascinating world of aquariums. Generally under 10 gallons, these starter aquarium kits typically include an internal or hang-on power filter and an incandescent or mini-compact fluorescent lighting system. These budget-friendly kits are designed primarily for a freshwater, fish-only setup but can also be used by more experienced hobbyists to create miniature biotopes.

intermediate

[6 Gallon Fan-cooled Nano Cube](#)
[12 Gallon Fan-cooled Nano Cube Deluxe](#)

Starting at around the 12 gallon range (some even smaller!), these systems are extremely versatile. Intermediate systems generally feature upgraded compact fluorescent lighting and filtration to accommodate a wider variety of inhabitants. Thanks to these enhancements, these systems are well suited as a small, freshwater community setup, planted aquarium, a saltwater aquarium or even a miniature reef aquarium. They are moderately priced, and offer a wide range of possibilities.

advanced

[24 Gallon Fan-cooled Nano Cube](#)
[28 Gallon Nano Cube LED Intermediate Series Aquarium](#)

Advanced systems are the ultimate in compact aquarium systems. Designed for unique biotope installations, many of these systems make nano reef installation a breeze. As the most comprehensive system, these advanced aquariums include various high-end equipment and many bonus features. One notable system is the [28 Gallon Nano Cube LED Intermediate Series Aquarium](#) system. The included protein skimmer, wavemaker, and other special features make it a dream system for nano reef enthusiasts. Averaging at about a 28 gallon capacity, advance systems are also the largest of the compact systems. While these systems may cost more than the basic and intermediate models, they offer serious aquarium hobbyists a unique opportunity to create a truly breathtaking display.