Mechanical Filtration

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The most important thing to remember about mechanical media is that the smaller the pores, the faster the mechanical media clogs. To prevent build-up, mechanical media should be cleaned regularly, and replaced as necessary.

Mechanical filtration can greatly improve the health of most aquariums, and is also important for the efficiency of your biological filtration. The process is simple: mechanical media strains solid debris such as fish excrement, sludge, uneaten food, or dust from your aquarium as water passes through it where it can be easily removed and rinsed or replaced. This not only reduces the amount of solids in your water, it helps keep debris from reaching your biological media, building up, and creating dead spots where nitrifying bacteria can't reproduce.

Mechanical media varies by porosity, which controls the size of the particulate that you can extract.

- Coarse media, such as Azoo Bio Glass, has large pores. It catches large debris so that small media doesn't need to be cleaned as often. It is also easier to clean and reuse than finer media.
- Blue Bonded Filter Pads are less coarse, and are good for cleaning most visible debris from your aquarium water.
- Filter floss has small pores, and is great for filtering out smaller particles, resulting in crystal clear water.
- Micron filter pads, or filters utilizing diatomaceous earth, remove extra small particulate.