How to Aquascape Your Aquarium

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driftwood & plants achieve the
natural motif

ou've decided that an aquarium is right for you. You've chosen all your equipment, but now what? How do you decorate it? What is the best way to incorporate all the elements for a cohesive, uniform look?

Q: What is the best way to keep my new aquarium decorations from looking like a jumbled mess?

A: When putting your aquarium together, choose a theme. This will help you create a uniform look without it appearing like a hodgepodge of mismatched items.

The most exciting transformation your aquarium goes through is from a tank filled with water to a water world filled with plants, decorations, and fish. When you aquascape, you are literally creating an "aquatic landscape" as you transform your aquarium into an amazing underwater world both you and your fish can enjoy.

Create a layout

If you are looking for design ideas or plans, a great place to start is by looking at other aquarium setups you find interesting and mimic the layout. Draw a diagram to scale to be sure all of your pieces fit to your liking. Once you have the basic layout, you can move items to create a custom look.

When you aquascape, it is important to have one accessory or decoration as your central focal point. This can be the largest piece or your favorite accessory. This piece works as the anchor of your layout. Use smaller decorations to expand and complement this piece to create a sense of balance. Generally, smaller accessories and small, low plants are placed in the front of the aquarium and large, tall plants are placed toward the back. Remember to use your imagination - there really is no right or wrong way to aquascape if you like the results.

Pick a theme

When you aquascape your aquarium, choose a theme. This will help create a cohesive look and ensure that nothing looks out of place or appears as though it does not belong. Here are just a few theme ideas that work well in any aquarium:

If you want to create a nautical theme in your aquarium, fabric sail ships add a maritime touch to your

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aquarium.

If you have a young child, perhaps you could choose characters from her favorite television show or movie.

A Sunken Ship Graveyard is another way to create a one-of-a-kind theme. Try placing a variety of sunken ships on the bottom of your aquarium to mimic a real-life ship graveyard.

If you are interested in a more natural, earth theme, Mopani Driftwood or Smooth Bark Tree Stumps are good choices. Combine them with a variety of assorted artificial plants. They look like the real thing, but don't require any special water conditions or lighting. Add a Aquarium Background to set the "mood" of your aquatic theme.

A combination of artificial corals and sponges can be mixed and matched for an eye-catching tropical display. You can even add a few artificial plants to offer your fish a retreat and a Hydor LED Aquarium Light to direct attention to your centerpiece.

Remember to have fun! With so many options, you are sure to create an aquarium as unique as you are!

RELATED INFORMATION

- **4 Easy Aquarium Setups**
- **Aquarium Decorations: More Than Just Décor**
- **Aquarium Styling**

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