

Benefits of Aquarium Canister Filters

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff



Many beginning aquarists choose economical, easy-to-use [power filters](#) for their first aquarium. However, as they advance, many hobbyists find it necessary to upgrade to a more versatile filtration system. A [canister filter](#) may be the right choice if you need a powerful filtration device that allows custom filtration with exceptionally large media capacity.

What is a canister filter?

A canister filter is essentially a sealed container filled with various [filter media](#). Aquarium water is drawn into the canister and forced through the media and then introduced back into the aquarium. Unlike power filters, most canister filters sit inconspicuously under your aquarium - only the intake hose and return line are visible within the aquarium. This space-saving design has the added benefit of reducing visual clutter that can detract from the beauty of your aquarium.

Expandable custom filtration

Canister filters can be used alone or in conjunction with a variety of aquarium equipment for [advanced filtration](#). Any in-line device such as BIO-Wheels, [UV sterilizers](#), or even [water chillers](#) can be plumbed to a canister filter for a comprehensive system. You can even create a custom water flow system simply by attaching a spray bar, [water return installation kit](#), or [Switching Current Water Director](#) to the return line. Your options are only limited by the flow rate of your canister filter and your imagination.

Large media capacity

The principle advantage of canister filters over power filters is their roomy media baskets. The number of baskets and the total media volume will vary from model to model, but all canister filters are made to filter large amounts of water. Use any desired

combination of mechanical, chemical, or biological media for superior filtration of larger or more heavily stocked aquariums. For example, the [Eheim Pro 3](#) has a total media capacity of 3.5 gallons and is designed for aquariums up to 320 gallons.

Whether you're setting up a larger aquarium or simply wanting to upgrade your existing filter, the versatile and reliable nature of a canister filter makes it a great choice. Canister filters are made for enhanced performance and convenience.

Q
A

What does it mean to prime a canister filter?
Priming is the process that starts the siphon that draws water from the aquarium and into the canister filter.

This process removes air in your hoses for uninterrupted water flow. Many canister filters include an integrated priming feature for fast, easy starting.

RELATED INFORMATION

- [Canister Filter Selection Guide](#)
- [Upgrading to a Canister Filter](#)
- [Advancements in Aquarium Filtration](#)



Attach the [Turbo-Twist UV](#) to the return line for an advanced filtration system.



Fill media basket with [Marineland Diamond Chemical Filtration Media](#) for clean, clear water.



Customize chemical filtration with our phosphate-removing [PhosPure® Filter Media](#).