

## Aquarium Maintenance Shortcuts

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Aquarium maintenance, along with other aspects of the aquarium hobby, has changed. Newer, smarter products are now available to offer timesaving solutions. If you haven't already, perhaps it's time to update your aquarium maintenance arsenal. You'll be pleasantly surprised when you discover the benefits of these great products at your disposal.

### **Incorporate chemical filtration media**

Filtration media may not be initially associated with aquarium maintenance. However, they play an integral role in minimizing maintenance workload as a preventive measure. The recent surge in specialized [chemical filter media](#) allows hobbyists to maintain ideal living conditions for aquarium inhabitants and maintain clean, aesthetically pleasing aquariums.

Take for example, [phosphate-removing media](#). They play an important role in reducing excess nutrients. Hobbyists that dread physical labor involved in [scraping](#) algae should consider using these effective chemical media. By removing the algal nutrient phosphate, these chemical media make it difficult for nuisance algae to thrive - in other words, less algae to scrape.

### **Harness the power of Mother Nature**

[Bacterial additives](#) aren't just for cycling aquariums anymore. Products like [Liquid Gravel Vac](#) and [DrTim's Aquatics Waste-Away Natural Aquarium Cleaner](#) speed biological breakdown of organic waste. Containing special blends of bacteria, these handy products naturally remove sludge from aquarium gravel and substrate as well as organic buildup on equipment and accessories. Regular use of these bacterial additives aids in gravel cleaning and helps reduce manual maintenance.

### **Have the right tools for the job**

Despite improvements, a certain amount of manual maintenance is unavoidable.

However, the proper maintenance supplies can keep the task short and efficient. When it comes to algae scraping and aquarium upkeep, there are more options than ever before. [Extra wide scrapers](#) cover more surfaces with one swipe, saving you precious time. Use [scrapers with an extra-long handle](#) to reach deeper into aquariums while keeping your hands dry and clean. Some scrapers have [interchangeable heads](#) so you can tackle multiple tasks with one convenient tool. To keep the exterior of your aquarium clean, use our disposable [Aquarium Wipes](#). A simple swipe with the presaturated wipes removes and minimizes the recurrence of fingerprints, water spots, and dust.

### Change your perception of water changes

Water changes are another crucial aspect of maintenance. There are many timesaving ways to conduct water changes in your aquarium. However, the [Python No Spill Clean 'N Fill Aquarium Maintenance System](#) is the quintessential timesaver. By harnessing water pressure from your faucet to siphon water from your aquarium, water removal goes faster and with less mess. With a flip of the switch, clean fresh water is directed back to fill the aquarium, putting an end to the backbreaking bucket brigade! If water spills are a problem for you when you make water changes, use the super absorbent [Drymate Cleaning Mat](#) to keep carpets and floors dry during maintenance.

With so many great time-saving products, aquarium maintenance can be easy and efficient. Take stock of your supplies, upgrade inventory, and take pride in having a beautiful, well maintained aquarium.

<p><b>Question:</b> In addition to maintenance, what else can I do to ensure a clean healthy aquarium?</p>	<p><b>Answer:</b> Consider "tank cleaning" fish, like <a href="#">cory cats</a>, or <a href="#">invertebrates</a> like snails and crabs to consume detritus, algae, and excess food. Plus, these little guys are fun to observe.</p>
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### We Recommend



Drs. Foster & Smith  
PhosPure®



Python No Spill Clean 'N Fill  
Aquarium Maintenance System



One And Only Nitrifying  
Bacteria  
by DrTim's Aquatics