

Sensible Algae Management Tips

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find a balance between NO ALGAE and NUISANCE ALGAE

Let's face it: If you keep an aquarium, you're going to grow algae. A little green is natural and can actually benefit a healthy habitat. In fact, aggressive attempts to eradicate algae altogether will more likely harm aquarium inhabitants and upset biological filtration. It's better to sensibly manage algae growth by finding a balance between no algae and nuisance algae.

While some algae growth is natural, nuisance algae is a sure sign of too much light or excess nutrients in your aquarium. Here's what you can do to help achieve a balance:

MANAGE PHOTOPERIODS

Algae thrives under unregulated artificial lighting. Take a tip from nature by limiting daily lighting cycles to 8 hours per day using a [digital outlet timer](#).

PERFORM REGULAR WATER CHANGES

In a closed system, organic waste materials can quickly accumulate, indulging algae while endangering your fish. As part of an algae management regimen, perform [partial \(15-20%\) water changes](#) every 1-2 weeks to replenish water quality and curb aggressive algae growth.

KEEP UP WITH ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

Keep on schedule with [filter cartridge](#) changes, as spent media can quickly frustrate any attempts to keep the green in check. Also regularly inspect your filter's performance: Is the flow rate decreasing? Intakes unobstructed? Impellers spinning freely?

TEST & CONTROL PHOSPHATE LEVEL

[Avoid overfeeding](#) your fish and [test](#) your aquarium regularly to monitor phosphate level. If you haven't already, test your source water, as sometimes this algae-blooming nutrient may be coming right out of your tap. For total phosphate removal, consider using chemical filter media that [neutralizes phosphate](#).

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What is the best way to manage nuisance algae?

The most important thing to consider is that algae are a symptom of poor water quality. The most effective approach to algae management is to remedy the conditions that stimulate

SIPHON SUBSTRATE

This is where most of the uneaten food and fish waste eventually settles, so don't let poor water quality sneak up on you from below. [Gravel-cleaning siphon systems](#) make it easier than ever to keep up with monthly maintenance.

aggressive
nuisance algae
growth.

WHAT ABOUT ALGAEICIDES?

Do everything you can to naturally keep algae in check before reaching for a quick fix. If using commercial [aquarium algaeicides](#), ALWAYS read and follow label instructions carefully. The chemicals in algaeicides are often harmful to invertebrates and may compromise your biofiltration if not used correctly.

Don't be turned off by algae - be comfortable with the fact that some algae growth is a natural and beneficial aspect of aquarium keeping. By following a few simple steps, you too can find a balance between impossibly pristine and pleasantly green.

We Recommend:



[Drs. Foster & Smith
PhosPure®](#)



[Aqueon Aquarium
Water Changer](#)



[Coralife Power
Center](#)



[Aquarium
Pharmaceuticals
Phosphate Test Kit](#)