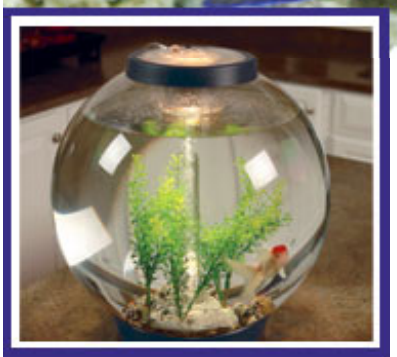
Benefits of Acrylic Aquariums

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

invest in acrylic

There are a number of advantages to choosing an acrylic aquarium for your setup. Overall, acrylic aquariums are stronger, lighter, and provide better views of inhabitants than traditional glass aquariums. Although typically more expensive than glass, acrylic aquariums are a thoughtful investment for any hobbyist.



Acrylic aquariums are a perfect choice for both the seasoned and beginner aquarist. Versatile and strong, acrylic aquariums are the optimal investment for aquarists looking to gain an edge in the hobby.

Acrylic aquariums are molecularly bonded (melted together) and less likely to break or leak than silicone-glued glass aquariums. Up to 17 times stronger than glass, acrylic is much more flexible and more forgiving to bumps and dings, making it the perfect choice for homes with children or where aquariums are in common areas. Acrylic is not immune to scratching, but unlike glass, the scratches can be easily buffed out.

Despite being stronger than glass, acrylic aquariums are actually up to 48% lighter. The lighter load, combined with the added strength and flexibility, make them excellent choices for those who take their aquariums on the road to frag swaps or reef club meetings.

Acrylic aquariums are clearer than glass and allow up to 92% of light to pass through. You'll see better color and brighter fish, and they work much better for photographing your inhabitants. As acrylic is more flexible, the aquarist will also enjoy the versatility of acrylic aquarium shapes available on the market, from bubble-shaped to bow front.

Q. My old acrylic aquarium has started to yellow. What gives?

A. Unlike glass, acrylic is more susceptible to yellowing due to the use of full-spectrum lighting and its effect on the chemical composition of acrylic. However, newer acrylics have better resistance to UV light degradation and should not be affected by the lighting.

To care for your acrylic aquarium, do not use gritty cloths, scouring pads, household cleaners, or abrasive compounds as these could scratch the acrylic surface. Instead, clean and polish the exterior to a radiant glow with our Aquarium Cleaner. To fight algae, invest in an acrylic-safe Mag Float which scrubs away algae without ever getting your hands wet.

Products you may find helpful...

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Aquarium Wipes & Aquarium Cleaner & Polisher

Scratch Removal Kit

Mag-Flip Aquarium Algae Cleaner

Acrylic Safe Mag-Float®

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