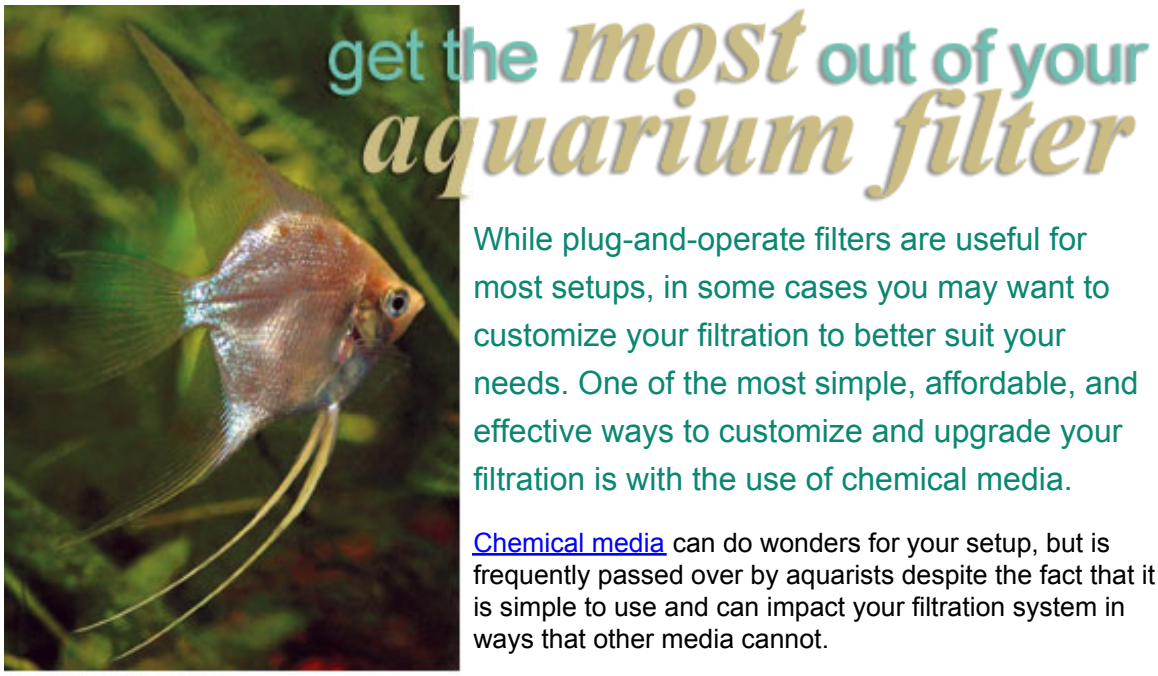
Custom Aquarium Filtration

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff



While plug-and-operate filters are useful for most setups, in some cases you may want to customize your filtration to better suit your needs. One of the most simple, affordable, and effective ways to customize and upgrade your filtration is with the use of chemical media.

Chemical media can do wonders for your setup, but is frequently passed over by aquarists despite the fact that it is simple to use and can impact your filtration system in ways that other media cannot.

Chemical media can help control phosphate and nitrate levels without compromising water parameters. It can remove toxins that biological and mechanical media cannot, and it is conveniently available in many forms, including bulk, for additional cost savings. Two of the most commonly used forms of chemical media include activated carbon and resin.

activated carbon

The most commonly used form of chemical filter media is activated carbon. It helps remove a variety of pollutants including copper, chlorine, medications, and other organic and inorganic compounds, and is especially helpful at removing odors and discoloration, making it a must-have for anyone with a showcase aquarium.

A popular activated carbon for freshwater is Marineland Diamond Blend which is a mixture of Black Diamond and White Diamond. It effectively eliminates dissolved organic wastes and ammonia, and when used with a media bag can be placed in any filter.

resin

Chemi-Pure makes an excellent addition to your filtration system. This resin blend can help remove trace amounts of heavy metals, copper, and phenol that sometimes seep into water supplies. Chemi-Pure Elite adds ferric oxide to the original formula to remove phosphates and silicates as

*Unauthorized use of any images, thumbnails, illustrations, descriptions, article content, or registered trademarks of **Foster & Smith, Inc.** is strictly prohibited under copyright law. Site content, including photography, descriptions, pricing, promotions, and availability are subject to change without notice. These restrictions are necessary in order to protect not only our copyrighted intellectual property, but also the health of pets, since articles or images that are altered or edited after download could result in misinformation that may harm companion animals, aquatic life, or native species.*

well. These resins can help your fish live a healthier life - up to four times longer - with fewer water changes. Chemi-Pure's ability to sustain and stabilize high water quality over longer periods of time also make it a great choice for discus and African Cichlid setups.

media reactors

For optimal results, invest in a media reactor which utilizes loose chemical media such as activated carbon or resin to deliver unparalleled chemical filtration.

*Unauthorized use of any images, thumbnails, illustrations, descriptions, article content, or registered trademarks of **Foster & Smith, Inc.** is strictly prohibited under copyright law. Site content, including photography, descriptions, pricing, promotions, and availability are subject to change without notice. These restrictions are necessary in order to protect not only our copyrighted intellectual property, but also the health of pets, since articles or images that are altered or edited after download could result in misinformation that may harm companion animals, aquatic life, or native species.*