

# starting a new tank

3 Steps to happier fish and healthier plants

# 1

## START CYCLING!

The 2Hr Way pays special attention to the tank's beneficial bacteria population. Cultivating a sufficient colony before adding plants and fish significantly reduces new-tank algae problems.



- Add beneficial bacteria and a source of ammonia (APT START) to jump start tank cycling.
- Run filter without lights for 2 to 4 weeks before planting, and add fish 2 weeks after planting.
- Use APT PURE to make tap water safe for beneficial bacteria during water changes.

# 2

## TEST BEFORE PLANTING

APT START contains both beneficial bacteria as well as ammonia which serves as 'food' for the bacteria. To further speed up the cycling process, use seasoned filter media and add mulm from the substrate of a previous tank. After 2-4 weeks of cycling, and just before planting:



- Perform a large (80%-90%) water change.
- Test for Ammonia the next day.
- If readings are zero, Ammonia cycling is complete.

# 3

## START STRONG

Even with sufficient cycling and zero Ammonia readings, weak plants may melt and algae may still occur. These actions will help:



- Introduce hardy plants first and plant densely from the start. Cover 70% of the substrate with plants.
- For the first week, perform a 70% water change daily.
- Observe new leaves. If they are algae-free, you are on the right track. Trim and replant healthy tops. Do not simply prune.
- Use APT 1 / Zero for the first 1-2 months.

## DEDICATED TO YOUR SUCCESS

Check out this page for more details.



THE 2HR AQUARIST