

## Advice for beginners

If I had to use just one word to describe the most important thing I could think of to tell people just starting out it would be; Patience.

Not a very exciting word, I know. Especially for an ADD hobbyist like me! It evokes visions of waiting and being bored. You want instant results.

I have seen more people become frustrated and loose money, not to mention, kill fish because they ignored this simple advice. It even happens to some of our maintenance customers when they don't follow our recipe for success and go out and buy their own fish. One story comes to mind that will illustrate my point...

We installed a beautiful 350 gallon custom salt water aquarium for a homeowner. Complete with custom cabinetry and state of the art filtration. We returned a few days later to add starter Damsel fish to begin the Nitrite Cycle process. And, like most of our customers, he had no prior experience with aquariums. To our horror, the homeowner ignored our advice and had completely stocked his tank over the weekend! What started out as just a harmless trip to the local fish store to look at fish, had become an investment of more than 1500.00 worth of new fish and living corals. All added to a brand new tank that did not have an established bio-filter. This was a ticking time bomb only days away from a complete meltdown. To make matters worse, most of the poor animals he added to his tank had no business being kept in his tank in the first place. We can forgive the homeowner, because he just got carried away in all the excitement, but the irresponsible store that made the huge sale is another story. To add insult to injury, the store refused to accept the return of the livestock.

We did what we could but, eventually, most of these animals died and our customer learned a hard lesson: Patience!

So, set up your new tank and get everything just right. Wait a day or two before you add fish. Then go slowly, test the water and add fish when the time is right and make sure to read about the nitrite cycle and fish selection too. And before you know it, you will have a tank full of healthy fish that will delight you for endless hours. TC <"((((>{

For more information about the Nitrite Cycle and how to properly Cycle your tank read: [Water Chemistry made simple.](#)