

Starting Your First Marine Aquarium

Websites:

- 1) **Bulk Reef Supply**- www.bulkreefsupply.org. The best site for purchasing high quality items. Limited selection though, especially when it comes to tanks.
- 2) **Marine Depot**- www.marinedepot.com. Good selection of tanks especially. You have to do your research though, because unlike Bulk Reef Supply, not all items at Marine Depot are high quality.
- 3) **Live Aquaria**- www.liveaquaria.com. This is where you will buy all livestock online. I have never purchased it, but it is a great website to browse what is available and learn more about all the various livestock options from cleanup crews to sps corals.
- 4) **Doctors Foster and Smith**- www.drsfostersmith.com/fish-supplies/pr/c/3578. Sells a lot of equipment. Especially good selection of tanks. Like Marine Depot, do you research before buying anything.

Tank:

- 1) **Fluval M60**- Currently \$599 at Doctors Foster and Smith. Click [HERE](#) for the direct link.
 - o This tank comes with the following:
 - Stand, tank, 1 LED strip light, return pump, powerhead (it's pretty weak though), protein skimmer, salt for up to 30 gallons of water.
 - o You will need to purchase the following:
 - 1 roll of plumber's tape, wavemaker or powerhead to replace weak powerhead that comes with kit, heater, surge protector, RO/DI water or RO/DI filter, test kits (ammonia, nitrite, nitrate, phosphate), refractometer, saltwater mix, 20 gallon + Brute trash can.
 - o Optional items:
 - Digital timer for lights, Inkbird controller, auto top off unit, backup heater, media rack, activated carbon with media bag, small trash can for auto top water.

Live Rock and Sand:

- 1) **Live rock**- this is hands down the best way to achieve healthy biological filtration. I recommend buying dry [Fiji Rock](#). You will need to cycle this before adding livestock. It will take anywhere from three weeks to six weeks, and you can cycle it with saltwater directly in the tank. (1 lb/gallon at \$2.99/pound = \$72)
- 2) **Live Sand**- so not add to tank until after rock is cycled. I like the [CaribSea](#) brand. Just stay away from crushed coral and the Oolite. (20 pounds, \$40)

Links to Items You Need to Purchase:

- 1) [Plumbers Tape](#) (\$5)
- 2) Wavemaker or powerhead- [Vortech MP 10 \(high end\)](#) (\$240), [Koralia \(medium end\)](#) (\$80), [Cobalt MJ 1200 \(low end\)](#). (\$30)
- 3) Heater- [Eheim Jager 25W](#) (\$25)
- 4) Surge Protector- [Tripp Lite 7 Outlet](#) (\$22)

- 5) RO/DI Filter- [4 stage 75 GPD \(low end\)](#) (\$185), [6 stage 150 GPD \(High End\)](#) (\$349)
- 6) Test Kits- [Red Sea Marine Care Test Kit \(Ammonia, Nitrite, Nitrate\)](#). (\$49), Could purchase [Phosphate Kit](#) (\$35) as well.
- 7) [Refractometer](#) (\$40).
- 8) Saltwater mix- [Red Sea Coral Pro](#) (\$75). Can also use other brands.

Optional Items:

- 1) [Digital Timer](#) (\$15)
- 2) [Inkbird controller](#) for heater (\$35)
- 3) Auto Top Off Unit- [Tunze Osmolator \(high end\)](#) (\$180), [JBJ ATO \(low end\)](#) (\$80)
- 4) Back-up Heater- [Eheim Jager 25W](#) (\$25)
- 5) Media Rack- Can purchase [THIS](#) one (\$75), or make one yourself using [EGGCRATE](#) (\$16).
- 6) Activated Carbon- [BRS Bulk Premium ROX 0.8 Aquarium Carbon](#) (\$50).
- 7) [Media bag \(for carbon\)](#) (\$5)

Cost:

- Fluval M60 (\$599), plumber's tape (\$5), Wavemaker (\$40-\$240), Heater (\$24), Surge Protector (\$21), RO/DI Filter (\$189-\$349), Test Kits (\$49-\$85), Refractometer (\$40), Salt Mix (\$75), trash can (\$30), Live Rock (\$100), Live Sand (\$40). **Total (\$1,172-\$1,568).**

Items You Will Eventually Need:

- 1) Magnetic glass cleaner
- 2) Fish food
- 3) Second LED light
- 4) Heater and powerhead for reserve salt water.
- 5) Coral dip
- 6) Plastic and metal headed algae scraper
- 7) Elbow length plastic gloves
- 8) Turkey baster
- 9) Various size cleaning instruments (brushes)
- 10) Fish net
- 11) Long tweezers
- 12) Filter floss
- 13) Emergency air stone
- 14) Batter back up or generator
- 15) Airline tubing for drip acclimating