

Comprehensive Saltwater Aquarium Shopping Checklists

Use this list to help you when shopping for the supplies to set up your Saltwater aquarium. It may not be all-inclusive, because every aquarium is set up a bit differently, but it will definitely give you a good starting point and guide you in your purchases for your aquarium and the supplies needed to keep extra saltwater prepared and ready for water changes.

Fish Only Set-up

- Aquarium
- Background design or Appliance paint to paint the back of the aquarium (if desired)
- Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter
- Biological Filtration System
- Tank Lighting – Regular fluorescent bulb is OK, Full spectrum 6,500K fluorescent bulb is better for showing off your fishes colors
- Rocks (if desired)
- Sand or Gravel for the bottom of the tank
- Plants and aquascaping decorations (if desired)
- Distilled Water
- Aquarium Salt
- Testing Kits:
 - pH
 - Salinity
 - Ammonia

Nitrite

Nitrate

Thermometer

Vitamins and Supplements (depending on what fish you're keeping)

A plastic garbage container (size equal or larger than your aquarium)

Ocean hydrometer

10 feet of flexible tubing

Aquarium heater

Refractometer

2 multipurpose powerheads/aquarium pumps

Protein skimmer

Quarantine tank for introducing your new fish or medicating sick fish

Food (will vary depending on your fish)

Nets

Gravel siphon

Fish Only Live Sand or Rock Set-up

- Aquarium
- Background design or Appliance paint to paint the back of the aquarium (if desired)
- Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter
- Mechanical Filtration System
- Tank Lighting – A regular flourscent bulb and an Actinic bulb as well.
- Live Rock and/or Live Sand
- Sand or Gravel for the bottom of the tank
- Plants and aquascaping decorations (if desired)
- Distilled Water
- Aquarium Salt
- Testing Kits:
 - pH
 - Salinity
 - Calcium
 - Ammonia
 - Nitrite
 - Nitrate
 - Phosphate

- Thermometer
- Vitamins and Supplements (depending on what marine life you're keeping)
- A plastic garbage container (size equal or larger than your aquarium)
- Ocean hydrometer
- 10 feet of flexible tubing
- Aquarium heater
- Refractometer
- Multipurpose powerhead/aquarium pump
- Protein skimmer
- Quarantine tank for introducing your new fish or medicating sick fish
- Food (will vary depending on your fish)
- Nets
- Gravel siphon

Reef Aquarium Set-up

- Aquarium
- Background design or Appliance paint to paint the back of the aquarium (if desired)
- Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter
- De-nitrification Filtration System
- Tank Lighting – A fluorescent HO or VHO or metal halide lighting set-up with the combination of both Actinic and daylight bulbs 6,500-12,000K
- Timer for the lights
- Calcium Reactor
- Live Rock and/or Live Sand
- Sand or Gravel for the bottom of the tank
- Plants and aquascaping decorations (if desired)
- Distilled Water
- Aquarium Salt
- Testing Kits:
 - pH
 - Salinity
 - Calcium
 - Ammonia
 - Nitrite

- Nitrate
- dKh (Alkalinity)
- Strontium
- Phosphate
- Magnesium
- Iodine
- Copper only if you have previously medicated fish

- Thermometer
- Vitamins and Supplements (depending on what marine life you're keeping)
- A plastic garbage container (size equal or larger than your aquarium)
- Ocean hydrometer
- 10 feet of flexible tubing
- Additives:
 - Calcium
 - Magnesium
 - Iodine
 - Strontium

- Aquarium heater
- Aquarium chiller (absolutely mandatory if using metal halide lights) and necessary if you live where your house can get above 80 degrees F.
- Refractometer

- 2 or more multipurpose powerheads/aquarium pumps
- Reverse Osmosis Water Filter Kit (if using tap water)
- Refugium for cultivating live foods for corals and/or fish (if desired)
- Protein skimmer
- Quarantine tank for introducing your new fish or medicating sick fish
- Food (will vary depending on your fish)
- Nets
- Gravel siphon

****** Notice there is no mention of buying fish or invertebrates at this time! This is because you have to give your aquarium about four weeks to completely prepare the water for hosting marine life.***