



DEPUIS / SINCE 1975

**MANUFACTURER OF
LOBSTER TANKS**

**USER MANUAL
FOR LOBSTER TANKS**

INITIAL START-UP

When first using your tank, it is important to gradually increase the number of lobsters, over a period of 4 to 6 weeks, in order to avoid contaminating the water.

FOLLOW THESE STEPS:

1. Install the filters in the filter compartment (according to the recommended amount for your specific model). Thoroughly rinse the coral and charcoal before adding them to the lobster tank.
 - a. Charcoal at the bottom
 - b. Coral in the center
 - c. Pre-filter on top (a minimum of 4 layers)
2. Bring water to the lobster tank with a clean garden hose (soap free). Fill the lobster tank with water through the filter access (on the side or rear of the tank) to the level indicated inside. **Never fill the tank with water through the acrylic basin.** Constantly check to avoid spillage.
3. Only fill the bottom reservoir with water. The upper basin will fill up by itself by powering on the lobster tank.
4. Turn on the pump switch(es).
5. If the water contains chlorine, run the water-filled lobster tank for one hour before adding salt.
6. Add synthetic sea salt (made for lobsters) and test the salinity level to reach 1.024. We recommend using our sea salt (Les Sels Aqua).
7. Check that the water temperature is between 45 and 46 degrees Fahrenheit.
8. When you are ready to place lobsters in the tank, you must first disgorge them. This will help reduce maintenance. (See p. 5: [How to disgorge lobsters](#))
9. You can now add live lobsters in the following proportions:
 - a. Week 1 = 10% of total capacity
 - b. Week 2 = 20%
 - c. Week 3 = 40%
 - d. Week 4 = 60%
 - e. Week 5 = 80%
 - f. Week 6 = 100%

Your installation is complete. When turning on your tank, it may happen that your water becomes cloudy. New coral and charcoal sediments can take up to 10 hours to be absorbed.

During the start-up weeks, we suggest draining the water (see instructions below) after 2 weeks and maybe 1 or 2 more in order to stabilize the ammonia level. An ammonia test 2-3 days after adding lobsters should tell you whether or not there is a possible danger of contamination. Refer to the section on ammonia readings for the steps to follow.

GENERAL MAINTENANCE OF YOUR LOBSTER TANK

Based on normal use of your lobster tank, the minimum maintenance steps required are outlined below. You may need to perform these tasks more often depending on the quantity and cleanliness of the lobsters placed in the tank.

DAILY :

- Remove dead or dying lobsters.
- Check the water temperature and adjust as needed.
- Check the salt level; adjust as needed, but remove lobsters before adjusting, and return them when the tank is stable.
- Check the main filtration box. Clear any debris on top. The water level should not exceed the height of the filters. If it is higher, the filters should be cleaned or changed as necessary.

WEEKLY :

- Check the upper basin's filtration box. Clear any debris. Clean and replace filters as needed.

MONTHLY :

- Check the water level. Stop the pumps, let the upper tank drain into the bottom reservoir. Through the main filtration box, check the water level. If it is too low, remove the lobsters first then adjust. Add water through the main filtration box. Start the pumps, and after 30 min, adjust the salt level using your hydrometer. Check the water temperature. When everything is stable, add your lobsters.

YEARLY :

For this step, you can plan a yearly maintenance with our service team. The yearly maintenance carried out by our team will include:

- A complete inspection and tank washing.
- Coral washing or replacement as needed.
- Charcoal replacement.
- Washing and replacing the pre-filter, if necessary.
- Cleaning the compressor air intake screens.

At any time, if your lobsters are dying, check the ammonia level.

For all information or to identify problems, please refer to the technical sheet provided when the lobster tank was purchased. If in doubt, contact technical services at 514-402-5564 for a service call that will allow you to verify the health and proper functioning of your lobster tank.

GENERAL MAINTENANCE OF YOUR LOBSTER TANK

IMPORTANT NOTES

FILTER MAINTENANCE

Regular filter maintenance will help keep your lobster tank water clear. Coral and charcoal should be rinsed with clean water before being placed in the tank. The coral can be washed once a year to remove waste and should be changed after 2-3 years. The charcoal is rinsed out only during the initial start-up. It should be changed once or twice a year depending on use. The pre-filters should be changed regularly. When the material crumbles, that pre-filter sheet must be removed. To know if your filters are dirty, look at the overflow level. If the water level is too high, there's a good chance your filter box is due for a cleaning. Then lower the water level to just below the box. Remove the top pre-filter sheets, rinse them and put them back. If the sheets need to be changed because they are crumbling, put the new ones underneath to rotate. Do not throw away more than 50% of your pre-filter sheets when changing them.

CLEANING THE LOBSTER TANK

Only use clear, cold or lukewarm water and a soft cloth. It is important to never use chemicals to clean the lobster tank. They could contaminate your water. Never use hot water to wash the acrylic basin. This could cause the acrylic to crack.

Also watch out for chemicals around the tank to prevent them from coming into contact with the tank's water.

HOW TO PERFORM A WATER DRAIN

If a total draining is required.

This should be done quickly to ensure survival of the bacterial flora in the filters (within 2 hours).

- Remove the lobsters from the tank.
- Drain the entire lobster tank by turning off the switch (es) for the pump(s). Once the acrylic reservoir is empty, take the pipe (supplied by Aqua Développement) and place it at the end of the white injector(s) located in the acrylic basin. Connect the other end of the pipe to a garden hose to drain the water. Reconnect the pump. Constantly check to be sure to stop the pump as soon as all the water is drained.
- Clean or change filters as needed.
- Fill the tank again and run it for one hour without adding salt or lobsters.
- If the need for a water drain was caused by ammonia contamination, retest the ammonia at this time.
- If the ammonia level is too high, repeat the previous steps 2-3 times until it returns to an acceptable level.

Important note: Do not return the lobsters to the water or add salt until the ammonia level has been neutralized. Once the ammonia is normalized, you can add the salt, do your salinity test, adjust the water temperature, and add your lobsters when all levels have returned to normal.

HOW TO DISGORGE LOBSTERS

Before you begin, it is important to have a very clean large container (for example, a large plastic garbage can). Make sure the container has never contained any chemicals, soap, detergent, bleach, etc. Always rinse it with clean water after use.

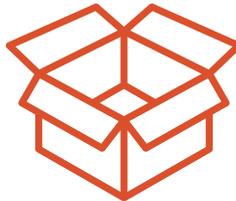
Always use the same container for this operation. Store it in a clean place after use. You will also need a second container, like a Styrofoam box, for this procedure.

1. Prepare a sea salt water recipe where the temperature is between 45° F and 48° F for a salinity of 1.024. When you have determined the amount of salt you need for the quantity of water, mark your container, so you can use the same recipe in the future.



large container

2. Soak your lobsters for 15 to 20 minutes in this 45° F water and then remove them, put them in an empty container (without water) for 15 to 20 minutes to allow them to empty themselves of this salted water. Their digestive system will expel waste.



empty bin

3. Then transfer your lobsters to your aquarium one by one, gently inserting them by the tail.
4. Well done!

GENERAL SETTINGS OF YOUR LOBSTER TANK

IMPORTANT NOTES

WATER TEMPERATURE

The thermostats installed in our lobster tanks are factory set. Do not adjust them. Please contact us if defective.

WATER LEVEL

Natural evaporation and absorption by lobsters cause the water level to decrease. Check the water level regularly. An adjustment is often required every 3 months.

AIR INTAKE

The air intake screen could become blocked by dust. Check occasionally and brush the screen every 6 months.

BACTERIA

The filtration system allows for the development of a bacterial flora necessary for the lobsters' survival. When emptying the water from your lobster tank, do so quickly (within 2 hours) so as not to contaminate the filters.

SALT QUANTITY

On your first salt calculation, write down the volume required for a complete fill. This will save time when performing complete drains.

AMMONIA READING

Regular ammonia testing is required when starting up the lobster tank until it stabilizes about 6 weeks later. Testing is also useful during lobster season when the tank is overloaded.

An ammonia reading taken immediately after adding lobsters could deliver a false reading. The filtration system takes a few days to stabilize if you gradually add the lobsters. When the ammonia reading is high, do not add more lobsters and wait a few days to verify that the system returns to normal. If the lobsters die or the reading remains high after 4-5 days, perform a water drain.

CORAL OR CHARCOAL

New charcoal or coral should be rinsed several times before adding it to the tank's filtration system. Adding coral or charcoal can cloud the water. The water should clear up in 8-10 hours depending on the residual sediment.

OTHER INFORMATION ON YOUR LOBSTER TANK

IMPORTANT NOTES

STORING YOUR LOBSTER TANK

If you need to store your lobster tank, completely empty the water reservoir and the pump. Rinse the coral thoroughly and dry it a bit before placing it in a bag. Store in a cool, dry place. The pre-filters and the charcoal will not be reusable. Discard them.

MOVING THE LOBSTER TANK

Never move a lobster tank with water in it, and never move the lobster tank by pulling or pushing on the acrylic. Always move it by the wooden base.

HOW TO CORRECT THE WATER SALINITY LEVEL

The salinity level should be 1.024. Please use a calibrated salt water hydrometer to verify the exact salinity level. If a correction is required, remove the lobsters. If the reading is below 1.024, you need to add salt. If it is above 1.024, you need to add fresh water. Beforehand, remove a quantity of salt water equivalent to what you will add in fresh water in order to maintain the tank's water level. Add the lobsters when the salinity level is restored.

THE LOBSTERS DIE, WHAT TO DO?

Check the salinity (1.024), temperature (45-46° F) and ammonia level (acceptable range) at least 2-3 days after adding the lobsters.

If the three points above meet standards, also check if the lobsters had been well disgorged before being introduced into the tank. The cleanliness of lobsters varies from region to region. It is also necessary to check the condition in which they are received. Are they weak? Have they suffered from heat or cold? These external elements could cause certain lobsters to die on a random basis. If all lobsters die quickly and all of the above points have been followed, it is possible that a chemical contaminant entered the system. It will then be necessary to perform a complete draining of the lobster tank and the pump. Rinse everything with clean water. Discard all filters and start up the tank again.

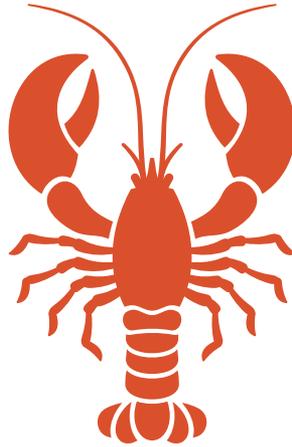
MY WATER IS DIRTY, WHY?

It is important to disgorge the lobsters before putting them into the lobster tank. The ammonia saturation level may be too high. Take an ammonia test and follow the instructions for ammonia readings above.

WHY IS THE WATER JET FULL OF SMALL AIR BUBBLES?

Check if the water level is high enough. It looks like the pump is pulling in air. This is very harmful for the lobsters and for the pump. Quickly correct the water level.

If you have questions that cannot be answered in this document, contact us.



lobstertank.ca

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