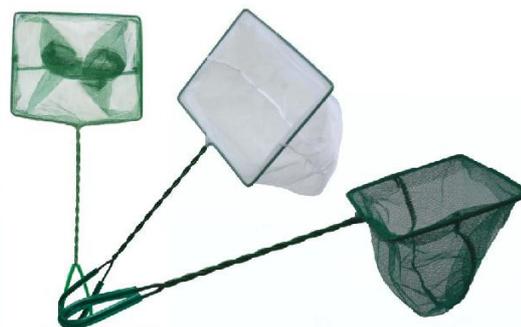


Net Sterilisation

Essential disease prevention



Why sterilise?

It is important to sterilise nets between uses to minimise the spread of disease and infection amongst fish. Sanitising your nets between use can help reduce or limit the spread of diseases such as white spot, many bacterial infections, fungal infections and parasitic diseases such as protozoans.

This guide has been designed to help you to reduce the frequency of disease outbreaks associated with net contamination.

The different types of sterilising agents and techniques mentioned here all work differently, and it is important to know how best to use each one, and which are best suited to your tanks.

Sterilising Agents

Net San

Net San, part of the Blue Planet range of products, destroys most disease causing organisms on contact, and avoids many of the problems associated with other products. Net San also helps to keep nets soft, resulting in less abrasion to the 'slime coat' which protects the fish. When using Net San, it's important to ensure that the bucket containing the solution is changed on a regular basis (ideally every second day), to ensure that the solution has not evaporated and that the water has not become too dirty/cloudy.

Warning: DO NOT add directly to aquariums containing fish, or mix with other chemicals, as it contains benzalkonium chloride.

Usage Guide - Use diluted in water at the rate of 1ml per litre of water. Replace solution when it starts to become cloudy or every few days.

Salt Solution

For freshwater tanks, a basic salt solution is a useful and inexpensive option. It is very important however to monitor both the cleanliness of the water and the rate of evaporation. Be aware too, that the use of salt can lead to rust, and will cause your nets to deteriorate quite rapidly.

Usage Guide – Add 50g per litre of water. Replace solution every few days.

Boiling Water

Boiling or very hot water is an effective sterilisation method. The net will need to be placed into the water for at least 30 seconds to ensure any microorganisms are destroyed.

Boiling water is very dangerous however. It is **not suitable for use in a retail environment**, or near children for example. **Take extreme care when using boiling water.**

Usage Guide – Effective Temperature: 75°C - 90°C. Top up evaporated water as needed.

Potassium permanganate

Potassium permanganate is a good chemical steriliser, although it can be hard to source. Only a small amount is required in order to sterilise nets effectively. Always read all instructions if you are using this chemical, including the use of gloves and a mask – this chemical can be hazardous. Be aware that it will permanently stain items such as clothing and skin.

Usage Guide – Use diluted in water at the rate of 5 grams per 1 litre of water. Solution should be changed when it starts to turn brown.

Summary

The use of a regular, effective net sterilisation is vital for the good health of both home and retail aquariums. You can improve your hygiene even further by using dedicated nets for each tank, or bay of tanks. (A handy tip is to label each net with a colour code, or a dog tag to identify which tank it should be used for). Inspect your nets regularly for tears or rust which can indicate that they need replacing.

Many methods of sterilisation can be dangerous. For this reason, we recommend the use of a product such as Net San, which has been specifically manufactured with safety in mind.



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