

A WaterZoo guide to...

# Acclimatising fish to your aquarium or pond

Fish and marine invertebrates can travel for many hours in the bag if kept away from bright light and extremes of temperature. Even so it is better to take them straight home if possible. When you get to your destination follow our guide for acclimatising the fish to minimise stress caused by the environmental changes.

Switch off the aquarium lights, this helps prevent the new fish from becoming distressed.

Remove & discard the outer bags, if possible this should be done in subdued light.

Remove the elastic band from bag, roll down the top of the bag to form an air filled collar to keep the bag afloat. Float the bag in your aquarium or pond.

During the next 20-30 minutes add a little of your aquarium/pond water to the bag every 5 to 10 minutes. This helps your fish to adjust to the new temperature & water conditions.

As an alternative to floating the bag, you can use an acclimation kit, this drips the water slowly into a separate vessel containing the fish. This is a more consistent and controllable methods After around 30 minutes gently release the fish. After about 60 minutes turn the lights back on & feed your fish. This helps distract your existing fish. Don't worry if your new fish do not feed and behave normally straight away. It can take several days for them to settle in and start feeding.

## Marines

We recommend that the acclimatisation process be extended to about an hour for marine fish & invertebrates. Marine species cannot cope with changes in their environment as well as most freshwater species.

If fish are already present in the aquarium we also suggest that, where possible the decoration is repositioned. This disrupts the existing occupant's territories and makes them less likely to attack any of the newcomers. This method may also work with aggressive freshwater species.

Monitor your new fish carefully for the first week, paying attention to the quality of the water pH, nitrite, nitrate etc. Observe existing inhabitants closely for signs of aggression towards new additions.

Be especially vigilant for Whitespot, this disease is often caused by changes in temperature when fish are moved. This is easily cured with the correct treatment if detected early enough.

## PLEASE NOTE

We do everything to ensure the livestock purchased from The WaterZoo is disease free and healthy. This includes quarantining new stock, ultraviolet sterilisation and frequent visual checks. However, even apparently healthy fish may become sick or diseased if not given the correct conditions and cared for properly.

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