



# Salt Water Aquarium Equipment Check List

## What You Absolutely Need: (for any size aquarium)

- 1) Tank (As large as you can afford! Bigger is easier to maintain.)
- 2) Stand & Canopy (Cabinet style with storage recommended)
- 3) Light (Metal Halide or High Output T5 Fluorescent. Both is best)
- 4) Pumps/Powerheads for water movement
- 5) Filter (Sump highly recommended)
- 6) Protein Skimmer
- 7) Live Rock and/or Live Sand
- 8) Test kits for pH, Nitrites, Nitrates, Calcium, & Alkalinity
- 9) Hydrometer or refractometer (Refractometers are preferred)
- 10) Heater
- 11) Thermometer
- 12) Power Strip
- 13) RO filtered or distilled water
- 14) Salt for reef aquariums



Octopus Protein  
Skimmer

## Equipment and Upgrades You Might Need:

- 1) Refugium (Live plants and deep sand bed help filter the water and remove impurities. Also used for growing foods)
- 2) Ultraviolet Sterilizer (controls and eradicates algae spores, bacteria, and protozoa such as ick)
- 3) Test kits for Ammonia and Phosphates
- 4) Cooling Fans (Removes heat from inside hood or canopy)
- 5) Chiller (Cools the water if you have heat problems)
- 6) Ozonizer (helps improve water clarity and health)
- 7) Calcium Reactor (Maintains calcium and alkalinity)
- 8) Luxmeter, pH pen, other electronic testing equipment

**Note:** Used equipment is usually fine so long as it's in good shape. However, do not use tanks, heaters, pumps or any other submerged equipment formally used for freshwater or for a fish-only marine tank. Some freshwater medications, like ones containing copper, that are safe for freshwater fish (and for fish-only marine tanks) are NOT safe for reef tanks. Even with extensive cleaning, some of these toxic chemicals can remain absorbed in the silicone sealant of the tank and in other unreachable parts of equipment. Even if the former owner claims to have never used these medications, it's simply not worth the risk. If you are buying used, buy used equipment previously used for (and only for) a reef tank (and by "reef tank" we mean any tank housing marine invertebrates).