

Steps to Recover Fish Tanks from Flood Damage

Remember—**Safety First!**

Do not re-use any electrical items unless they have been checked by an electrician and passed for use. If you are unsure of any items throw them out! This includes all electrical pumps, filters, heaters, lights etc.

Ensure everything is safe before commencing work. Wear gloves and make sure you wash your hands well after working with contaminated material.

Clean and Check

Remove all dead fish, plants snails etc, seal in plastic bags for disposal. Do not feed to other stock or dispose of in waterways.

Check tanks for cracks and breakages – replace or repair as practical. Check tank stands to ensure they are structurally sound before reusing them.

Clean tanks and tank stands thoroughly with clean water – avoid using detergents and chemicals on tanks and filter material as these may leave toxic residues.

Clean up filter material, as any filter material that has been sitting without the filter on will go 'rotten' and will produce toxins if used. Filter material such as bioballs, ceramic noodles, gravel etc can be cleaned with freshwater. If sponge filters etc are not easily cleaned then replace them. Activated carbon, Dacron and other absorbent filter media should be replaced.

Any foods and chemicals contaminated by flood should be disposed of.

Fill and Re-Stock

Fill tanks with water, use the appropriate water conditioners and salts to remove chlorine etc and adjust to suitable quality for your fish.

Install heaters and adjust to appropriate temperatures.

Leave to sit for 2 to 3 days to settle before starting to re-stock with fish.

Begin stocking tanks lightly to avoid 'New Tank Syndrome' ([see the Aquarium Industries Care Sheet on this](#)).