

FK Primers: Coldwater, Tropical and Marine Aquariums

Category : Beginners Articles

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This article introduces the most common types of aquarium kept in the UK, briefly explaining the difference between freshwater and saltwater systems and which may suit your level of skill and budget.

Freshwater Aquarium

A freshwater aquarium is a tank that contains water similar to the water found in the majority of rivers and lakes in the world. The two types of freshwater aquarium commonly kept in the UK are known as coldwater and tropical.

Coldwater

A coldwater aquarium generally doesn't contain a heater. The tank water will be near to the temperature of the room. If the room temperature isn't stable you may need a heater to compensate for temperature changes. Coldwater fish include the White Cloud Mountain Minnow and goldfish varieties such as the Comet and Fantail. Coldwater fishkeeping is sometimes recommended as the best option both for beginners and those on a budget but it should be noted that all goldfish varieties will need substantially bigger tanks than many tropical species.

Tropical

A tropical aquarium contains a heater to keep the water temperature at the level required by the inhabitants. Different species will require specific temperatures. There are many types of tropical fish to choose from but care must be taken to choose fish that are compatible with each other and the water chemistry of your tank.

Saltwater Aquarium

A saltwater aquarium is a tank that contains water similar to the water found in coastal and ocean areas of the world.

Marine

The most common type of marine tank in the UK is a tropical marine tank. Like the tropical freshwater systems these tanks require a heater to keep the temperature near to those found in nature. Marine aquariums are more difficult and expensive to keep than other aquariums due to the complexity of water chemistry and the extra equipment required.

Brackish

Brackish aquariums recreate the environment found in estuaries and other parts of the world where the water contains salt levels somewhere between freshwater and marine environments.

Read the following articles for more information

Essential Equipment: <http://www.fishkeeping.co.uk/articles...g-essential-equipment.htm>

Choosing the Right Fish: <http://www.fishkeeping.co.uk/articles...e-choosing-right-fish.htm>

Keeping Goldfish: http://www.fishkeeping.co.uk/articles_12/keeping-goldfish.htm

Fish Profiles: <http://www.fishkeeping.co.uk/modules/caresheets/>