SEA DWELLERS AND FRIENDS
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CONTROLLING TEMPERATURE TECH SHEET

This is a common question we are asked in the summertime. The best answer is to have an aquarium chiller or air conditioning. However these options are not available to everyone. We do have a few suggestions that may help keep the temperature down.

You must decide if the temperature is to warm. Most fish will live at temperatures into the 90's. Goldfish, Koi, and coldwater fish are exceptions. Observe your aquarium inhabitants for signs of distress before making a decision to take any action.

Don't unplug your heater! If your heater is set right and functioning properly, it will only turn on if the temperature gets below the set level. We sell a lot of ick medicine in the fall because people unplug their heaters and forget to plug them back in when the weather gets cool.

The major cause of ick is temperature fluctuation. Keep this in mind when trying to cool the aquarium. Any change that we cause in temperature should be gradual.

Here are some things, in addition to room temperature, that cause the aquarium to become warm: Lights, Pumps and Power heads, and Direct Sunlight. Lights can be shut off for a few days at a time or they can be run only at night when the temperature is lower. Adding curtains or blinds can remedy direct sunlight. In most cases it is not a good idea to shut off your pumps.

You can direct a fan at the aquarium to help cool things down a little. The lid can be left open to help the aquarium cool (you take a risk of fish jumping out). If you have a wet dry filter leave the stand doors open. Adding an air pump with an air stone can help to cool the aquarium down. This also adds oxygen to the water. The warmer water becomes the less oxygen it is able to hold.

I know of people who place small amounts of ice in plastic bags and float them in the aquarium. The ice is replaced after it has melted. People with large aquariums can use small ice packs. This must be performed in small amounts on a consistent basis to prevent too much temperature fluctuation.