

Interpet 

# Fish pod

Complete aquarium kit

48 litre, 64 litre & 120 litre instruction manual  
and aquarium set up guide



**CREATE**

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO GET  
STARTED WITH YOUR AQUARIUM



Interpet

# Fish pod

Thank you for purchasing this **Fishpod Complete Aquarium Kit**. Interpet has applied over sixty years of aquatic experience to ensure every element of the design of this product has been carefully considered to ensure you enjoy aquarium keeping.



**Please retain this manual for on-going care and future reference.**



We are sure that this aquarium will enable you to fully enjoy the benefits of owning and looking after aquarium fish and plants.

**This Fishpod aquarium is supplied with:**

- An **Internal Cartridge Filter** which is easy to use and keeps the aquarium water clear and healthy for your fish. Uniquely, the filter also contains an **Algaway** pad to prevent unsightly algae ruining your viewing enjoyment.
- A **Deltatherm** heater which acts like a central heating system to maintain a stable water temperature for tropical fish.
- An easy start aquarium kit in the form of two essential Interpet water care treatments:-
  - **Tapsafe** which makes tap water safe for use in aquariums
  - **Filter Start** which establishes the essential biological cycles in the filter that eliminates harmful fish waste

For details on how to use all these essential components please refer to the individual instructions supplied.

## Contents

- Getting to know your aquarium
- Setting up your aquarium
- Things you need to know about starting an aquarium
- On-going care of your aquarium
- Top tips
- Guarantee and safety information

## Section 1 - Getting to know your aquarium



- 1 Glass aquarium** 48 litres/64 litres/120 litres
- 2 Aquarium hood**
- 3 Lighting:**
  - FP48 = 1x15 Watts Day Light Lamp  
1x15 Watts Cool Blue Moon Lamp
  - FP64 = 2 x15 Watts Day Light Lamps
  - FP120 = 2 x 18 Watts Day Light Lamps



- 4 Internal cartridge filter:**
  - FP48 = CF2
  - FP64 = CF2
  - FP120 = CF3
- 5 Deltatherm heater:**
  - FP48 = 100 Watts
  - FP64 = 150 Watts
  - FP120 = 200 Watts
- 6 Easy-read glass thermometer**
- 7 Tapsafe**
- 8 Filter Start**
- 9 Condensation tray**

## Section 2 - Setting up your aquarium

Unpack all of the items in the box and check everything is present against the parts list in section 1.

Ensure the aquarium is placed on a level surface suitable for bearing the weight of a full aquarium (e.g. Fishpod 64 litre will weigh over 90kg when full); the matching Fishpod cabinets are specifically designed for this purpose and are essential to validate the aquarium guarantee.

Position the aquarium on its cabinet where you can get maximum enjoyment from watching your aquatic habitat. However, the aquarium should NOT be placed:

- In direct sunlight,
- Areas of extreme temperature variations i.e. next to a radiator,
- Areas subject to loud noise, vibration or a lot of movement e.g. by a loud speaker or in the hall way

### Step 1 - Adding substrate and décor to your aquarium

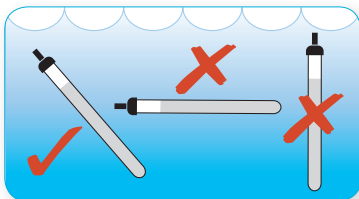
Ensure you wash your choice of aquarium substrates (gravel or aquarium base) before adding it to the aquarium as most gravel contains large quantities of dirt which will cloud the water.

Also pre-wash or soak any rock, wood or ornaments before adding them to the aquarium. Do not use any soap or cleaning liquids other than plain tap water for this job.

### Step 2- Installing your Deltatherm heater and thermometer

The heater supplied is factory set at 24°C, the ideal temperature for most tropical fish, but can be set to any temperature between 16 and 34°C by using the adjustable thermostat on the top of the product.

Attach the Deltatherm heater on the back glass of the aquarium using the sucker mounted brackets supplied. Ensure the heater will be fully submersed and is placed diagonally as shown in the diagram below – this ensures the thermostat works most accurately.



### DO NOT PLUG THE HEATER IN YET!

The Deltatherm heater should never be turned on out of water and cold water should never be applied directly to a hot heater as in both cases this will cause the glass to crack.

#### Top tip...

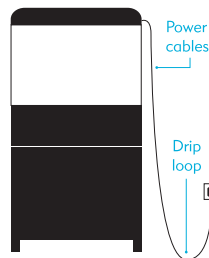
...Always unplug your heater before carrying out any water changes. Only plug it back in when the aquarium is refilled and the heater is fully submersed.

Attach the thermometer to the inside of the glass, in a suitable position for monitoring water temperature.

#### Important Safety Information

To prevent any drips entering the electric socket, create a drip loop for both the heater and filter cables as per the diagram (right).

#### Create a drip loop



### Step 3 - Installing your Internal Cartridge Filter

Your Internal Cartridge Filter is set up ready for use. Use the sucker mounted support cradle to fit the filter on the back glass of the aquarium. It is important that the filter is positioned on the back of the fish pod tank within the specified cut out section on the supplied condensation tray. The condensation tray prevents condensation collecting on the underside of the aquarium hood ensuring moisture cannot run down the back of the aquarium when the hood is fully opened. Ensure the filter is at the correct height relative to the water surface and the cartridge can be easily replaced.

For more details see the instruction booklet supplied in the Cartridge Filter carton.

### DO NOT PLUG IN YOUR FILTER YET.

### Step 4 - Filling your aquarium

Once you have added substrate, installed the heater and filter, you can fill your aquarium with water using a bucket or hose.



#### Top tip...

...When filling the aquarium, place a plate or bowl in the base to disperse the water flow and prevent the substrate moving and clouding the water.

Dose the water with the Interpet Tapsafe supplied, this removes harmful chlorine and heavy metals (e.g. Copper) from tap water. Tapsafe also adds: Aloe Vera which protects delicate fish membranes; bacteria to boost essential biological processes in the aquarium. Follow the on-pack instructions for using Tapsafe.

#### Top tip...

...Tapsafe should be used whenever you use tap water to carry out water changes or top up evaporation.



Once the aquarium is full you can turn the filter and heater on. Both items should remain operational at all times, apart from when you are carrying out maintenance in the aquarium when they should be unplugged for your safety.

### Step 5 - Using your aquarium lights


Your aquarium is supplied with high light output fluorescent energy saving lamps (FP48 = 2 x 15 Watts; FP64 = 2 x 15 Watts; FP120 = 2 x 18 Watts) these are designed to give out sufficient light of the right spectrum to:

- Bring out the best in the colours of your plants and fish.
- Supply essential light energy for plant photosynthesis to sustain lush plant growth.


If you have live plants they will need 8-12 hours of light to thrive. To replicate this natural day/night cycle automatically, you can plug the lights into a household timer.

#### Top tip...

... Energy saving fluorescent lamps have an 'effective life' of 12 months, after this time even though they still work the quality and intensity of the light produced diminishes, this will reduce plant growth and encourage algae. It is therefore good practice to replace the lamp every 12 months.



To initially fit or replace the lamps, **firstly turn off the power**, then carefully remove the lamp cover using a flat head screwdriver. Unscrew the old lamps anti clockwise to remove from the lamp fixture. Reverse the above to fix the new lamp in place. These lamps should only be replaced with genuine Tropical daylight lamps of the same wattage – either take the lamp with you or make a note of the details stamped on the lamp.



### Step 6 - Adding plants and fish to your aquarium

Your new aquarium should be allowed to settle overnight to allow the temperature to stabilise. Then, you can start adding live plants; remove any dead or broken leaves before planting directly into the substrate.

#### Top tip...

...Take care to plan your aquarium planting (which is similar to creating a garden border) ensure that there is a variety of different height plants with the tallest at the back and shortest in the foreground. Create clumps of plants with a variety of leaf colours, shapes and textures for best effect. It is always better to start off with too many plants and thin them out later, this helps ensure algae does not have any excess food or light to establish a foothold in the aquarium.

Seek the advice of your specialist aquatic retailer when purchasing fish; they will be able to help you select a variety of fish which will create a calm and balanced community. Ensure your retailer knows you have a new aquarium, as it is essential to add fish gradually to a new aquarium over a period of weeks, starting with hardier varieties, and gradually building up to the aquarium's full complement of fish.

What type, and how many fish can I keep?

### Fishpod 48 litres

**Tropical** – Maximum total length of full grown adult fish (excluding tail) = **55cm**

**Suggested community with interest at all levels of the aquarium :-**

Area of the aquarium	Species	Quantity
Bottom dwellers	Corydoras	3
Midwater shoal	Neon Tetra	6
Upper water	Cobalt Blue Gourami	2

**Goldfish** - Maximum total length of full grown adult fish (excluding tail) = **26cm**  
This translates to 2 goldfish allowing room for growth.

### Fishpod 64 litres

**Tropical** – Maximum total length of full grown adult fish (excluding tail) = **77cm**

**Suggested community with interest at all levels of the aquarium :-**

Area of the aquarium	Species	Quantity
Bottom dwellers	Sterba Corydoras	3
Midwater shoal	Zebra Danio	6
Feature fish	VieJita Dwarf Cichlid	2
Algae eater	Zebra Cat	1

**Goldfish** - Maximum total length of full grown adult fish (excluding tail) = **35cm**  
This translates to 3 goldfish allowing room for growth.

### Fishpod 120 litres

**Tropical** – Maximum total length of full grown adult fish (excluding tail) = **154cm**

**Suggested community with interest at all levels of the aquarium :-**

Area of the aquarium	Species	Quantity
Upper water	Red Rainbows	2
Bottom dwellers	Duplicate Cory	4
Midwater shoal	Neon Tetra	12
Feature fish	Ram	2 (1Male, 1Female)
Algae eater	Bristle nose	1

**Goldfish** - Maximum total length of full grown adult fish (excluding tail) = **47cm**  
This translates to 4 goldfish allowing room for growth.

## Step 7 - Kick start your filter

As soon as you introduce the first few fish, add Filter Start which will help establish an effective biological process in the filter for removing harmful fish waste. Follow the on-pack instructions for using Filter Start.

### Top tip...

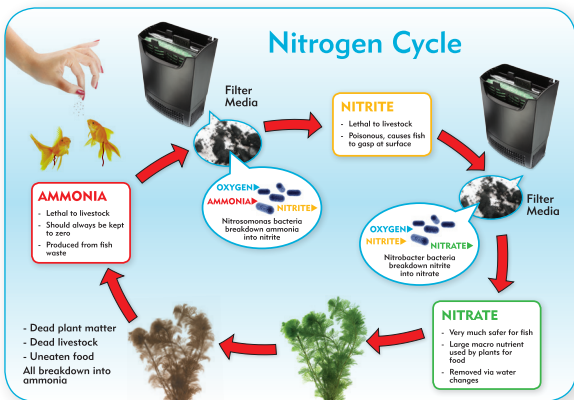
...Add Filter Start every time you add new fish or clean your aquarium and filter to boost essential biological activity.

## Section 3 - Things to know about starting an aquarium



### The nitrogen cycle

Before adding fish to your aquarium there is some important information to understand about how the aquarium water remains clean and healthy enough for fish to thrive.

The aquarium is a small 'closed' environment; this means harmful waste can build up quickly because there is not enough water volume to dilute the waste, as would happen in a natural lake, nor is there a constant supply of fresh water to wash it away, as would happen in a river or stream. The breakdown of fish waste, excess food, dead plant material and other organic matter will cause invisible toxic compounds to build up in the aquarium water, unchecked this would eventually harm your fish. Fortunately there is a natural process called the "Nitrogen Cycle" which we can recreate in the aquarium to convert the toxic waste into safer compounds (The diagram below shows how this process works).







This Nitrogen cycle is carried out by essential “Nitrifying” bacteria which set up home in the biological media in the aquarium filter. These bacteria would naturally take a couple of months to become established in the filter. During this maturing period fish keepers often experience fish losses caused by the build-up of invisible toxic compounds which is referred to as “New tank syndrome”.

**New tank syndrome can be avoided by:**

- adding Filter Start which speeds up the maturing process
- starting with a few hardier fish varieties and adding more fish gradually over a number of weeks
- feeding sparingly in the early days to reduce biological loading
- monitoring water quality with a test kit which reveals the presence of the invisible toxins
- carrying out weekly water changes of 20% of the tank volume to dilute waste levels for the first 6 weeks.


## Section 4 - On-going care of your aquarium



**Other items required for on-going aquarium maintenance:**

Bucket, net, magnetic glass cleaner, gravel cleaner, fish food, aquarium test kit and replacement filter service packs.

**Daily Care Routine**

- Feed fish – ideally two or three times per day as much as they will eat in a couple of minutes (remove any uneaten food) – more fish die of overfeeding than underfeeding so take it easy and make sure only one person in the house is feeding them!
  - Check fish health – look for differences in appearance or behaviour that may indicate they are unwell – seek advice from your retailer if you spot any problems.
  - Clean algae off the glass – the easiest way to do this is to use a magnetic glass cleaner, note: do not get any gravel in the glass cleaner as you risk scratching the inside of the aquarium.
  - Always remove dead fish and plant matter immediately to avoid water pollution
  - Ensure the filter is working and that there is good water flow to oxygenate the water. This is good for both the fish and the bacteria in the filter.
  - Check the aquarium temperature is stable at the correct level using the thermometer provided. Note:- in the summer it is possible for the water temperature to briefly rise above the temperature set on the heater thermostat this should not cause a problem for most tropical fish species.
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### Weekly Care Routine

- Top up any water evaporation – ensure you treat the tap water with Tapsafe before adding it to the aquarium.
- If you have live plants, add a plant food such as Floraboost; trim back excess plant growth and remove any dead leaves.
- Clean the fluorescent lamps and the outside of the aquarium with distilled water (steam iron water) and dry them with a clean, soft cloth. Do not use chemical cleaning products, abrasive cloths, sprays or soaps.
- Use an Interpet Test kit to reveal any water quality problems; these are mostly invisible to the naked eye.

### Monthly Maintenance Routine

- Carry out a 25% water change. Unplug the heater before removing water from the aquarium (do not remove fish, plants or décor) you can clean the substrate at the same time by using a gravel cleaner. Ensure the replacement tap water is treated with Tapsafe and mix in a little hot water to ensure it is roughly the same temperature as the aquarium water before adding it to the aquarium.
- Replace the Floss/carbon filter cartridge and Algaway pad with the right size service pack. CF2 service packs are for the CF2 Internal Cartridge Filter and CF3 Service Packs are for the CF3 Internal Cartridge Filter.

### Annual Maintenance Routine - put a reminder in your diary to help you remember:

- Replace aquarium lamps.
- Replace filter impeller to maintain optimum performance (see Filter instructions for details).

## Section 5 - Top tips for a beautiful and healthy aquarium

1. Locate your aquarium in a suitable position for the benefit of the fish and plants, and for your maximum enjoyment.
2. Select the correct amount and correct species of fish for a balanced and calm community.
3. Care for your water; do all the recommended water changes, filter cleaning, tests and feed correctly, taking special care in the early days or when adding new fish.
4. Don't rush the early days, start slowly and carefully for long term success.
5. ENJOY YOUR AQUARIUM!

See online for further information on all aspects of keeping an aquarium and fishkeeping or join others in our Facebook community: [www.facebook.com/interpet](http://www.facebook.com/interpet)

## Guarantee

All Fishpod aquariums are guaranteed for 12 months from the date of purchase providing the following conditions are met.

Never place polystyrene under the bottom frame of this aquarium.

Your aquarium must be sited on a surface that is flat and level and able to withstand the weight of the aquarium when filled with water, gravel etc. Note: 1 litre of water weighs 1kg)

Wrought iron and angle iron stands, together with video, HiFi, TV cabinets, articles of furniture and self-assembly furniture are NOT suitable for use with Fishpod aquariums, doing so will automatically invalidate this guarantee. It is the responsibility of the purchaser to ensure that when using an aquarium stand it has been designed for use with a Fishpod aquarium i.e. The top support of the stand should be in contact with the entire bottom frame of the aquarium.

You must use the correct Interpet stand so as not to invalidate your guarantee.

All aquarium/stand locations should take into account the position of floor boards/joists etc., bearing in mind the weight to be supported.

The sealant on the aquarium must not come into contact with any chemicals (i.e. Household bleach etc.) or sharp objects such as rocks and razor edged algae scrapers. Normal aquarium treatments and fish medications used for the purpose of fish keeping do not affect the aquarium silicone.

**IMPORTANT SAFETY ADVICE:** Never site your aquarium over electrical appliances and never lift the aquarium by the top frame (if fitted) or by any part of the bracing system.

**DO NOT try to lift or move the aquarium when it contains water.**

This guarantee covers leakages arising from either faulty materials or workmanship. We cannot be responsible for breakages of glass.

This guarantee does not apply to any unauthorised modifications or misuse, improper or inadequate maintenance, or operations outside the product specifications. In case of defect within the stated guarantee period, the products should be returned, with proof of purchase, to the point of purchase.

This guarantee does not effect your statutory. Guarantee service includes repair or replacement of the aquarium at Interpet Ltd.'s discretion. Neither Interpet nor the manufacturer are liable for any direct, indirect, special, incidental or consequential damages, including loss of livestock, arising from a defect in this product.

## Important Safety Information

**WARNING:** To guard against injury, basic safety precautions should be observed, including the following guidelines.

### READ AND FOLLOW ALL SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

**DANGER:** To avoid possible electric shock, special care should be taken since water is employed in the use of aquarium equipment. For each of the following situations, do not attempt repairs yourself, return the appliance to an authorized service facility for service, or discard the appliance.

This is for indoor use only – do not use outside. Do not use this unit if the cable or plug are damaged or appear to be malfunctioning, or if it is dropped or damaged in any manner. Do not use this unit if the plug gets wet.

Refer to section 2 of this instruction manual to find out how to create a drip loop for both the heater and filter.

Dispose of responsibly following instructions from your local authority. Close supervision is necessary when any appliance is used by or near children. Do not install or store the appliance where it will be exposed to the weather or to temperatures below freezing point. If an extension cord is necessary, a cable rated with a proper rating should be used. A cable rated for less amperes or watts than the appliance rating may cause the appliance to overheat. Care should be taken to arrange the cable so that it will not be tripped over or pulled.

### SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS

Dispose of used Electrical & Electronic Equipment (Applicable in the European Union and other European countries with separate collection systems)  
The symbol on the product or on its packaging indicates that the product must not be disposed of with normal household waste. Instead, it is your responsibility to dispose of your waste equipment by arranging to return it to a designated collection point for the recycling of waste electrical and electronic equipment. By separating and recycling your waste equipment at the time of disposal you will help to conserve natural resources and ensure that the equipment is recycled in a manner that protects human health and the environment. For more information about recycling this product, please contact your local city office, your household waste disposal service or the shop where you have purchased the product.



## Service Packs

One and three month service packs available for your internal cartridge filter CF2 & CF3.



## Tapsafe

A unique and advanced formulation developed in conjunction with global leaders in Biotechnology. It removes chlorine, chloramines and heavy metals and this in turn allows even hot tap water to be used as part of a water change mix. An Aloe Vera protective colloid within Tapsafe creates a barrier around the fish's delicate skin and gill membranes. As an added feature it also adds a culture of bacteria and enzymes that consume any excess biological waste in the aquarium and boosts filter performance.



## Easy Test Health Tablet Test Kit

Complete with tablet tests for ammonia, nitrite, nitrate and broad range pH, along with 2 plastic test vials and a tablet crusher. It also includes the colour instruction booklet which gives accurate advice on how to use this easy kit along with recommendations on the test results. An effective and simple way for you to test your aquarium water, ideal for new aquarium set-ups.



Interpet has applied over 60 years of aquatic experience to ensure every element of the design of this product has been carefully considered to help you enjoy aquarium keeping.

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