

AquaOak

Premium Oak Aquariums

Care advice for your new aquarium

Thank you for purchasing a genuine AquaOak Premium Oak Aquarium. Our aquariums are unique in their quality and complement the existing furnishings of your home. No longer do you need to choose between having a piece of furniture or an aquarium in your lounge - now you have both!

Caring for the wood of your aquarium

We believe that every AquaOak aquarium is unique and as the cabinet and hood are made from a naturally occurring material it is important for you to take some time to maintain the finish and to be aware that there may be some variations in the Oak coloration and grain. Whilst we try to keep these variations to a minimum, when present they serve only to add character and charm.

Wood is naturally hygroscopic, meaning that its moisture content varies depending on local humidity levels. Although the Oak used in producing your aquarium has been naturally and kiln dried, humidity changes may result in minor expansion and contraction of the wood. This is a completely normal response to the furniture's environment.

It is important therefore to protect the cabinet and hood from the extremes of their environment, including but not limited to its interaction with the aquarium itself.

Heat

It is not advisable to allow heat sources to make direct contact with the cabinet, hood or aquarium.

As such, please do not place your AquaOak aquarium near to radiators or fireplaces.

When installing your choice of lighting, if possible mount it upon the glass aquarium covers within the recesses provided at the front and rear of the aquarium. Please try not to attach your lighting directly to the hood, particularly if it generates a lot of heat. If it is necessary to attach your chosen lighting to the hood then please also use reflectors as a heat shield and install onto the middle cross beam or rear of the hood and never onto the front hood flap.

We have a range of open topped hoods available via special order which can be more suitable for those with marine aquariums and high powered or suspended lighting systems.

Spillages

When working on your aquarium try to have an absorbent towel to hand in order to blot up any spillages as these will erode the protective finish over time.

Your cabinet and hood have been treated with several spray coats of wax oil to enhance the finish and protect against water damage. Regular contact with water can lead to this coating being worn away and as such we recommend that a clear beeswax, or clear furniture oil is applied every 6-12 months with a soft, clean cloth in the direction of the grain. Extra care should be taken when treating the hood in close proximity to the aquarium.

Abrasive Cleaning Products and Furniture Sprays

Never use abrasive cleaning products or furniture sprays on or near to your aquarium as these can be harmful to your fish and will damage the wax oil finish. Instead, dust your aquarium regularly with a clean, dry duster.



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Installation of your new aquarium

Location

Position your aquarium away from direct sunlight, draughts or direct sources of heat, such as radiators and fireplaces.

Take care to ensure that the location chosen won't subject your fish to unnecessary stress such as slamming doors and loud televisions or radios.

Leave plenty of space behind the aquarium for ventilation and for access to any piping or cabling. We recommend a minimum of 15cm.

Level Surface

It is imperative that your cabinet is installed on a completely level surface before the aquarium is placed upon it.

First remove the plastic packing feet which are screwed to the bottom of each cabinet foot. These are installed purely to protect the base of the cabinet during transport.

Place the cabinet into position and using a spirit level ensure that it is completely level in all directions. At this stage ensure that all of the cabinet's feet are firmly touching the ground. If any aren't touching or the cabinet isn't level, then use plastic shims or similar to fully support and level the cabinet.

Polystyrene Base

A layer of polystyrene, cork or high density foam must be placed on top of the cabinet surface for the aquarium to sit on. Otherwise a minor unevenness such as a small grain of sand could be enough to crack the base of your aquarium once filled.

Cover Slides

There are cut outs in the rear corners of the glass covers to allow piping and cabling to be installed without needing to leave the main covers open. Please be sure to keep any splashing or spray from filters or airstones to a minimum in this area.

It is important that the main cover slides are kept closed at all times other than for when you require access to the aquarium for routine maintenance or feeding. These covers are designed to reduce condensation and humidity build up within the hood. If these covers are left open for an extended period of time the hood could warp or twist due to high moisture content. If this happens by accident simply close the cover slides and leave the hood flap open to dry out and it should return back to normal. You can also adjust the screws on the hinges to relieve any pressure caused by the expansion or contraction of the natural wood.

Please note that when using a sump filtration system (a second aquarium inside of the cabinet) it is important to allow for plenty of ventilation and where possible to partially or fully cover your sump.

Modifications

Unfortunately we do not supply custom designed aquariums out with our standard range of designs.

Please note that any modifications made to the structure of your aquarium, cabinet or hood will void any guarantee offered.

Further information can be found on our website:

www.aquaoak.co.uk