

How to Save Your Fish During a Power Outage

Top 3 Goals

- ✓ **PREVENT A SIGNIFICANT SHIFT IN TEMPERATURE**
- ✓ **MAINTAIN ENOUGH DISSOLVED OXYGEN IN THE WATER TO SUSTAIN THE FISH**
- ✓ **MINIMIZE BUILD UP OF SOLID WASTES & AMMONIA IN THE TANK**

Survival Checklist

- **ADD AERATION:** Use a battery-operated aerator. Keep extra batteries! Surface agitation promotes the exchange of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and oxygen (O₂).
- **HAVE A BACKUP POWER SOURCE:** If possible, keep a generator or power bank. This is especially important for saltwater/reef tanks for which lighting is essential.
- **CLEAN SOLID WASTE:** Rinse your mechanical filter components and siphon debris from the bottom of your tank at least 1-2 days before the storm hits.
- **DIM OR TURN OFF BATTERY POWERED LIGHTS:** Consider darkening the tank or room to minimize activity & aggression. Remove any live plants that may die and pollute the water.
- **PAUSE FEEDING:** If they've been fed regularly, most fish can go without food for a week. Turn off any automatic feeders.
- **CLEAN BIO MEDIA:** Clean your bio media on the filter and place it in the tank itself. As long as dissolved O₂ levels are near normal, the beneficial nitrifying bacteria will stay alive and cycle ammonia.
- **REGULATE TEMPERATURE:** If the water gets too warm (e.g., > 90F) consider blowing a battery powered fan over the open top. This provides evaporative cooling.
- **MONITOR FISH STRESS:** If the fish start to behave abnormally or gasp at the surface of the tank, consider adding more air pumps, performing a partial water change, and/or transferring some fish to an aerated holding container with treated water.
- **WHEN POWER IS RESTORED:** Clean tank, test water and resume feeding 24 hours later.

Materials

- Battery-operated aerator
- Extra batteries
- Generator/Power bank (optional)
- Over-the-counter dechlorinating solution
- Extra prepared aquarium water
- Thermometer
- Water quality test kits

