



# Undergravel Filtration

YES ...A MUST for every aquarium!

Undergravel filters have been a very successful & popular form of filtration for many years. Sadly many shops & fish keepers are no longer using them. WHY????? . . . There certainly is new & very good technology in filtration now available BUT should they replace undergravel filtration? I say a STRONG & serious NO!

## It is a major mistake to disregard the relevance of U/G filters.

They promote stable water conditions & greatly reduce the ammonia problems many fish keepers face. Possibly many would NOT have such major problems with ammonia if they simply added an U/G filter from the beginning.

Does it replace a power filter? NO. To create good water quality for successful fish keeping you need:

1 - Biological filtration 2 - Mechanical filtration 3- Chemical filtration

Undergravel filters are primarily an excellent biological filtration (FAR BETTER than any power filter, other than a TRUE trickle filter). They are also reasonably good mechanical filters, trapping waste & debris within the gravel, HOWEVER, you still need a good power filter. External filters are the best, housing both mechanical filtration media & chemical filtration, in the form of carbon & resin, to polish & purify your water and provide optimal water quality.

With an undergravel filter, the entire bed of your aquarium becomes a biological and mechanical filter containing the bacteria necessary to break down waste produced by fish. The filters can be altered using air stones or pumps to provide a slower or stronger water current.

The undergravel filter is a simple biological filter, using a plastic plate which lays on the bottom of the tank with slots cut into it to allow water through into the gullies of the moulding. A riser tube draws water back to the surface with the aid of an airstone or powerhead. The plate is covered with gravel and that's it! It effectively draws water down through the gravel, trapping solid debris close to the surface. The soluble waste is broken down by bacteria that grows deeper down in the gravel. Clean water is taken back to the surface by the airstone or powerhead.

## A quiet, efficient and inexpensive system that simple to maintain.

### MAINTENANCE:

Use a gravel cleaner when doing your water change (1/4 fortnightly is usually sufficient) to keep your gravel clean & enable the U/G filter to work more effectively!

