



# ARIZONA TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

## End of Year Equipment Cleanup

At the end of the TIC season, it is important to clean your aquarium set-up in order to ensure a successful next year. If you take a few minutes to make sure everything is clean, your equipment will have a much longer life. Here are a few pointers for cleaning the various components of your chilled aquarium set-up:

### Aquarium Tank

1. Empty the tank almost all the way, by your usual method - many people like to use the electric pump to do this work. Then turn off the electrical pumps, chillers, filters, etc.
2. Finish emptying the tank and disconnect tubing.
3. Using a solution of 1-part Chlorine bleach (Clorox) and 100 parts water, wipe down the interior and exterior of the tank. A soft sponge (dedicated to this use only) can be used to scrub hard to remove scale and algae growth.
4. You can use the 1:100 bleach solution for cleaning out the tubing (clean tubes using long brushes you can buy at any pet shop).
5. Rinse anything cleaned with the bleach solution thoroughly with fresh tap water. Let everything air-dry completely, preferably in bright sunlight.
6. If you have any pebbles or gravel in the tank, they should be removed, washed and dried by laying out on a cloth or towel in the sun or a ventilated area. They can also be sterilized with the Clorox solution, but they also **MUST** be completely dried.

### Aquarium Chiller

#### Drop-in style chiller (TradeWinds)

Using bleach solution and a dedicated sponge, you can wipe off the stainless-steel Freon tubing.

For hard-to-remove plaque, a small PLASTIC scrub brush can be used. **NEVER USE A WIRE BRUSH ON THESE TUBES.**

Remove dust and lint from the fins of the coolant tubing (those thin black metal slats on the side of the chiller). This can be accomplished using a small vacuum cleaner, dusting cloth or soft bristle plastic dust brush. Your chiller will run more efficiently if you clean the lint and dust from this side of it.

## **Filter**

Take apart your filter and scrub out the plastic parts with your 1:100 bleach solution. Thoroughly rinse out all filter cartridges (filter sponges, charcoal, etc.) with regular water, and dry them in the sun or a well-ventilated area.

For most filters, filter cartridges of charcoal and sponges can be replaced for the following year. You can re-use bacterial growth media -- such as clay pieces -- that you rinsed out. Thoroughly air-dry entire filter apparatus.