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BRAND: ZOO MED | MODEL: TURTLE CLEAN 15

INTRODUCTION

The Zoo Med Turtle Clean 15 External Canister Filter is designed to provide efficient biological, chemical, and mechanical filtration for turtle tanks, vivariums, box turtle pools, and aquariums up to 15 gallons. Its compact and convenient design allows for placement outside the tank, and the clear viewing case helps monitor when filter media requires replacement. This manual provides comprehensive instructions for setup, operation, and maintenance to ensure optimal performance and longevity of your filter.

PACKAGE CONTENTS

Carefully unpack all components and verify that all items listed below are present. If any parts are missing or damaged, please contact Zoo Med customer support.



Image: The Zoo Med Turtle Clean 15 External Canister Filter with all its components, including the main filter unit, hoses, intake/outflow pipes, suction cups, and filter media bags.

- Turtle Clean 15 External Canister Filter Unit
- Intake and Outflow Hoses
- Intake Pipe with Strainer
- Outflow Pipe with Spray Bar and Directional Spout options
- Suction Cups for secure mounting
- Filter Media (Biological, Chemical, Mechanical)
- User Manual

SETUP INSTRUCTIONS

Follow these steps to properly set up your Zoo Med Turtle Clean 15 External Canister Filter.

1. **Prepare Filter Media:** Open the filter unit by releasing the clamps. Remove the filter media baskets.

Rinse all filter media (sponges, ceramic rings, carbon) thoroughly under dechlorinated water to remove any dust or debris. Place the media back into the baskets in the recommended order (mechanical, biological, chemical).

2. **Assemble Intake and Outflow Pipes:** Connect the various pipe sections for the intake and outflow. You can choose between a spray bar or a directional spout for the outflow. Ensure all connections are secure.
3. **Attach Hoses:** Connect the flexible hoses to the assembled intake and outflow pipes. Secure the hoses to the filter unit's inlet and outlet ports using the provided screw-tight connectors.
4. **Mount Filter:** Attach the mounting brackets to the back of the filter unit. Position the filter on the back or side of your aquarium, ensuring it is stable and level. The filter should be placed below the water level of the tank for proper operation.
5. **Install Intake/Outflow in Tank:** Place the intake pipe (with strainer) and outflow pipe (with chosen attachment) inside the aquarium. Use suction cups to secure them to the tank wall. Ensure the intake strainer is positioned near the bottom of the tank and the outflow is positioned to create good water circulation.
6. **Prime the Filter:** Before plugging in the filter, it must be primed. Fill the filter canister with water from your aquarium. This can be done by pouring water directly into the filter housing or by using a siphon method if available. Ensure the filter is completely filled with water and all air is expelled from the hoses.
7. **Power On:** Once the filter is filled with water and all connections are secure, plug the power cord into a grounded electrical outlet. The filter should start pumping water immediately. Some initial air bubbles may be expelled; this is normal.

Video: AMOSIJOY Canister Filter Using Guide. This video demonstrates the assembly and initial setup of a similar external canister filter, including pipe connections and priming methods.

Video: Hang-On-Back Canister Aquarium Filter Installation. This video illustrates the installation process for a hang-on-back style canister filter, which shares similar principles with the Turtle Clean 15's external mounting.

Video: PONDFORSE Canister Filter Installation Demo. A demonstration of external canister filter installation, providing visual guidance for hose and pipe connections.

Video: hygger Hang On Back Filter Assembling & Cleaning. This video shows the assembly and cleaning process for a hang-on-back filter, which can be helpful for understanding media placement and maintenance.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Once the filter is set up and running, it will continuously filter your aquarium water. The clear viewing case allows you to visually inspect the filter media. If the water flow significantly decreases or the media appears heavily soiled, it is time for maintenance.

Adjusting Water Flow

The Zoo Med Turtle Clean 15 features adjustable water flow. You can regulate the flow rate by adjusting the valves on the intake or outflow pipes. This allows you to customize the water movement to suit the needs of your specific aquatic environment and inhabitants.

MAINTENANCE

Regular maintenance is crucial for the efficient operation and longevity of your filter. The frequency of cleaning depends on the bioload of your tank, but generally, it should be performed every 2-4 weeks.

1. **Disconnect Power:** Always unplug the filter from the power outlet before performing any maintenance.
2. **Remove Filter Unit:** Carefully detach the hoses from the filter unit and remove the filter from its mounting position. It is recommended to place the filter in a bucket or basin to catch any residual water.
3. **Disassemble Filter:** Release the clamps on the filter head and lift it off. Remove the filter media baskets.
4. **Clean Media:** Rinse mechanical filter media (sponges, floss) thoroughly in old aquarium water (from a water change) to preserve beneficial bacteria. Replace chemical media (activated carbon) as recommended by the manufacturer, typically every 2-4 weeks. Biological media (ceramic rings, bio-balls) should only be gently rinsed in old aquarium water if heavily soiled, as these house beneficial bacteria.
5. **Clean Impeller:** Inspect and clean the impeller and its housing. Remove any debris or buildup that may impede its rotation.
6. **Reassemble and Restart:** Reassemble the filter in reverse order, ensuring all seals are properly seated and clamps are secure. Reconnect the hoses, prime the filter with aquarium water, and plug it back in.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your filter, please refer to the following common problems and solutions:

- **No Water Flow:** Check if the filter is plugged in. Ensure the filter is properly primed and filled with water. Inspect the impeller for blockages or damage. Verify that hoses are not kinked or obstructed.
- **Reduced Water Flow:** Filter media may be clogged and require cleaning or replacement. Check for obstructions in the intake or outflow pipes.
- **Noisy Operation:** Air may be trapped inside the filter. Gently tilt the filter to release trapped air. Inspect the impeller for damage or debris. Ensure the filter is placed on a stable, level surface.
- **Leaking:** Ensure all hose connections are tight and O-rings/gaskets are properly seated and not damaged. Check for cracks in the filter housing.

If problems persist, please contact Zoo Med customer support for further assistance.

SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Specification
Brand	Zoo Med
Model Name	Turtle Clean 15 External Canister Filter
Item Model Number	976031
Tank Volume Capacity	Up to 15 Gallons
Filtration Type	Biological, Chemical, Mechanical
Item Dimensions (LxWxH)	11 x 5.5 x 4.5 inches
Item Weight	2.04 pounds

Material	Plastic
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WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

The Zoo Med Turtle Clean 15 External Canister Filter comes with a 1-year warranty from the date of purchase. This warranty covers defects in materials and workmanship under normal use. Please retain your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

For technical support, troubleshooting assistance, or warranty inquiries, please contact Zoo Med Laboratories directly. Contact information can typically be found on the product packaging or the official Zoo Med website.