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› AQUANEAT Aquarium Bio Sponge Filter Media Pad User Manual (7.5" x 4.7" x 2.75")

## AQUANEAT 7.5" x 4.7" x 2.75"

# AQUANEAT Aquarium Bio Sponge Filter Media Pad User Manual

MODEL: 7.5" x 4.7" x 2.75"

## INTRODUCTION

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The AQUANEAT Bio Sponge Filter Media Pad is an open-cell foam sheet designed for comprehensive water filtration in various aquatic environments. It provides both mechanical and biological filtration, effectively trapping particles and cultivating beneficial microorganisms to maintain clear and healthy water. This versatile filter pad can be cut to fit a wide range of filtration systems, including aquariums, sumps, and ponds.

## PRODUCT FEATURES

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- **Dimensions:** Each pad measures 7.5 inches (L) x 4.7 inches (W) x 2.75 inches (H) with a PPI (Pores Per Inch) rating of 40. This package includes two pieces.
- **Enhanced Filtration:** The open-cell structure provides a significantly larger internal surface area, crucial for both mechanical and biological filtration.
- **Customizable Fit:** Designed to be easily cut, allowing it to function as a pre-filter for various aquarium or pond filters, sumps, wet/dry filters, canister filters, power filters, or custom DIY projects.
- **Optimal Water Flow:** The reticulated foam structure ensures a consistent water flow rate and reduces the likelihood of clogging.
- **Durability and Reusability:** Constructed with a dense material that resists tearing, making the filter pad easy to clean and suitable for long-term reuse.

# Cut-to-Size

Freely cut it into suitable size according to your needs



Figure 1: Mechanical Filtration. This image shows water flowing through the black sponge, effectively trapping suspended particles and waste, illustrating the mechanical filtration process.



Figure 2: Biological Filtration. This image depicts water passing through the sponge, indicating the deep cleaning process that removes harmful substances and purifies water by cultivating beneficial microorganisms.

## SETUP INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Unpack the Sponge:** The filter sponge is typically vacuum-packed. Carefully remove it from its packaging.
2. **Hydrate and Expand:** Place the sponge in water and allow it to soak for 1 to 4 hours. This process helps the sponge restore to its original dimensions and ensures it is fully saturated before use.
3. **Wring Out Excess Water:** Gently wring out the sponge to remove any trapped air and ensure it is pliable.
4. **Cut to Size (if necessary):** If using the pad as a pre-filter or for a custom application, use a sharp utility knife or scissors to cut it to the desired dimensions to fit your filter compartment or sump.
5. **Placement:** Position the sponge in your filter system where it can effectively capture debris and allow water to flow through it. For optimal biological filtration, ensure good water circulation through the sponge.



Figure 3: *Sponge Preparation.* This image sequence illustrates the steps from receiving the vacuum-packed filter sponge, soaking it in water to expand, wringing it out, and finally showing it restored to its full size.

## Wide Application



Figure 4: *Cut-to-Size Feature.* This image highlights the dimensions of the filter pad (7.5" x 4.7" x 2.75") and emphasizes its ability to be freely cut to a suitable size for various filtration needs.

## OPERATING PRINCIPLES

The AQUANEAT Bio Sponge Filter Media Pad operates on two primary filtration principles:

- **Mechanical Filtration:** The dense, open-cell foam acts as a physical barrier, trapping suspended particles, debris, and uneaten food from the water column. This prevents larger waste from clogging subsequent filter stages and helps maintain water clarity.
- **Biological Filtration:** The extensive surface area within the sponge provides an ideal environment for beneficial nitrifying bacteria to colonize. These bacteria convert harmful ammonia and nitrites, produced by fish waste and decaying organic matter, into less toxic nitrates, which are then removed through water changes. This process is vital for maintaining a stable and healthy aquatic ecosystem.

## MAINTENANCE

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Regular maintenance of your AQUANEAT Bio Sponge Filter Media Pad is essential for optimal performance and the health of your aquatic inhabitants.

- Cleaning Frequency:** The frequency of cleaning depends on the bioload of your tank and the amount of debris collected. Visually inspect the sponge regularly. When you notice reduced water flow or significant accumulation of debris, it is time for cleaning.
- Cleaning Procedure:** Remove the sponge from your filter system. Gently rinse the sponge in a bucket of old aquarium water (water removed during a water change). **Do not use tap water directly**, as chlorine and chloramines can kill the beneficial bacteria residing in the sponge. Squeeze and rinse until most of the trapped debris is removed.
- Preserving Beneficial Bacteria:** The goal of cleaning is to remove physical waste while preserving as much of the bacterial colony as possible. A light rinse is usually sufficient.
- Reuse:** The dense and durable structure of the AQUANEAT sponge allows for repeated cleaning and long-term reuse, making it a cost-effective filtration solution.

## TROUBLESHOOTING

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If you encounter issues with your filter pad, consider the following:

- Reduced Water Flow:** If water flow through your filter system decreases, the sponge may be clogged with debris. Perform a thorough cleaning as described in the Maintenance section.
- Poor Water Clarity:** If water remains cloudy after initial setup, ensure the sponge is properly placed and water is flowing through it efficiently. Regular cleaning is crucial for maintaining mechanical filtration effectiveness.
- Ammonia/Nitrite Spikes:** If your water parameters show elevated ammonia or nitrites, it may indicate an issue with the biological filtration. Ensure the sponge is not over-cleaned with chlorinated water, which can destroy beneficial bacteria. Allow time for bacterial colonies to establish or re-establish.

## SPECIFICATIONS

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Feature	Detail
Brand Name	AQUANEAT
Model (Size)	7.5" x 4.7" x 2.75"
Item Weight	3.2 ounces
Color	Black
PPI (Pores Per Inch)	40
Included Components	2 pieces of open cell sponges
Specific Uses	Fish (Aquarium, Pond, Sump Filtration)
ASIN	B0963NV1PP
Date First Available	May 28, 2021

## WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

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For specific warranty information regarding your AQUANEAT Bio Sponge Filter Media Pad, please refer to the retailer's return policy or contact AQUANEAT directly. As a small business brand, AQUANEAT is committed to customer satisfaction.

For further assistance, product inquiries, or to explore other AQUANEAT products, please visit the official AQUANEAT Store on Amazon.