1. Set Up Your Fish’s Home

Rinse your tank out with water and ensure your pump is switched to the low setting. Attach one end of the tube to the elbow of your submersible pump. Wet the suction cups and place them inside your tank with the vent facing down. Stick the pump to the bottom of the tank’s back panel (side with the notches in it). Keep the pump plug out of the tank and dry at all times. Wash the provided gravel thoroughly in a strainer with water, and add the gravel to the bottom of the tank.

Place your tank in its final home (it will be heavy to move later), fill the tank with room temperature water up to the textured line, and add ~½ capful of D-Klor™ to the water. To equalize water temperature for your fish, float the bag or container you bought your fish in (with fish inside) directly in the tank water for 15 minutes. Gently release your fish from the container into the tank water. Your water might be cloudy for the first few days. This is your tank cycling and should clear up within a week.

2. Assemble the Grow Bed

Rinse the grow bed. Thread the pump cord and flexible tube up through the openings in the grow bed and place the grow bed on the tank. Run the power cord out of the back notch in the tank. Bend the flexible tube and nestle it into the tube groove - water should flow horizontally into the grow bed. Plug pump into outlet to turn on. Rinse your grow lid and attach to the grow bed. The 4 corner tubes should fit snuggly inside the grow bed. Fill your 5 plant pots evenly with Growstones™ and rinse them with water. Set each plant pot into the grow lid and pour the entire Zym Bac™ bottle evenly over all the Growstones™.

3. Plant Your Seeds

Refer to your seed packs on our FAQ page for important instructions on planting each type of seed. Keep 1-2 plant pots seeded with fast-growing wheatgrass or sprouts until roots from the other plants extend outside of their pots and can better filter the water. Use herb starters, like mint, to get a jump-start.

Sunlight, Plants, and Algae

While the Water Garden is constantly cleaning the water of ammonia excreted by the fish, algae can still form with direct sunlight.

Sprouts, like wheatgrass and radish, grow well with indirect light and allow you to place your Water Garden almost anywhere. Herbs (e.g. basil) grow best when given indirect light or under a grow light. This provides the light that increases the likelihood of algae, you can prevent it from forming by adding a backing or algae-eaters like freshwater snails to the tank.

When topping off, use ¼ capful of D-Klor™ to add the remaining water you add. Avoid filling much past the textured line, as bettas like space to breathe (they take in oxygen directly from the air as well as through their gills).

It is important to keep the water level within ~1” of the bottom of the textured line. When topping off, use ½ capful of D-Klor™. Feed your betta slowly and allow them to eat, usually, once a day. It is important to remove uneaten food and fish waste from your Water Garden at least once a week. You can help control algae growth by adding a backing or algae-eaters like freshwater snails to the tank.

RATHER WATCH A VIDEO? backtotheroots.com/WaterGardenCare

How you can watch our step-by-step set up video, find answers to FAQs, and shop recommended accessories.

OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES

**Submersible Water Heater**: If your home runs on the cooler side, consider purchasing a small heater. Since bettas are tropical fish, they are happiest in water between 76º and 82º F. A combination of sunlight, nutrients, and water can increase the likelihood of algae, you can prevent it from forming by adding a backing or algae-eaters like freshwater snails to the tank.

**Tank Decorations**: Consider purchasing a small heater. Since bettas are tropical fish, a spot near a sunny window, a grow light is a great alternative.