

PA Trout In the Classroom:

End of Year Clean-up

END-OF-YEAR CLEAN-UP

Following the release of the trout, the aquarium and equipment will need to be properly cleaned for storage. Aside from the filter materials, the equipment can be reused for many years with proper maintenance.

Storing Equipment

Store equipment on a level surface in an area where it is safe from becoming bumped and broken. Storage totes and baggies are reasonable choices to store loose equipment safely inside the aquarium.

Always conduct a thorough check of all the equipment prior to storage to effectively plan for replacement pieces as needed.

Assess the seals on the aquarium. The silicone along the seams should not be pitted or missing any sections. If pitting or segments are missing, replacement is required to avoid leaks at next use. Pet stores often offer the service or visit:



INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEO: [Bing Videos](#)

AQUARIUM

- 1 Turn off equipment and empty aquarium almost all the way using the Siphon Kleen. Remove gravel.
- 2 Empty the aquarium completely and disconnect all tubing.
- 3 Use a solution of one (1) part chlorine bleach (Clorox-unscented) and ten (10) parts water or one (1) part white vinegar to five (5) parts water solution. to wipe the interior and exterior of the aquarium. A soft sponge can be used to scrub hard to remove scale and algae growth. For stubborn scale/algae, soak directly with vinegar and gently scrape using a safety razor.
- 4 Use the same solution and long brushes (available at pet shops) to clean the tubing.
- 5 Rinse the aquarium thoroughly to remove residual cleaning solution and wipe dry with clean cloth or allow to air-dry
- 6 Rinse gravel, driftwood, rocks, etc. thoroughly and air-dry on an absorbent cloth in the sun. Gravel can be sterilized with one of the cleaning solutions listed in step three, but it must be rinsed thoroughly and completely dried.

DO NOT use a cleaning solution on driftwood or porous materials.
- 7 Once dried, return gravel and driftwood to the aquarium for storage. Cover the aquarium to protect it from dust accumulation.

CHILLER: *Drop-in*

- 1 Using a bleach or vinegar solution and dedicated sponge, wipe the stainless-steel Freon tubing.
- 2 For difficult scale or build up, a small, plastic, scrub brush can be used. NEVER USE A WIRE BRUSH ON THESE TUBES.
- 3 Remove dust and lint from the fins of the coolant tubing (the thin slats on the back of the chiller). A small vacuum cleaner, dusting cloth or soft bristle plastic dust brush is useful. The chiller will run more efficiently when the lint and dust are removed on a regular basis.

407 FLUVAL CANISTER FILTER

- 1 Take apart the filter and scrub the plastic parts with the above listed cleaning solutions.
- 2 Thoroughly rinse all filter media with regular water and dry them in the sun. Scrub ceramic cylinders until free of all debris. For most filters, it is suggested to buy new filter pads, but coarse filter sponges and bio media can be used for several years.
- 3 When all components are dry, re-assemble the filter and store it inside the aquarium.