

REEF GLASS

Instructions

Acrylic Mount Installation

The Reef Glass skimmer mount was designed to fit most rimless and rimmed tanks (or sumps). For rimless tanks, you should insert the plastic screw in the hole that is located on the back of the mount, from the back of the tank (Figure 1). For rimmed tanks, the hole on the front of the mount should be used, and screwed from inside the tank. For rimmed tanks, you may have to cut the length of the screw. Do not overbend the mount or overtighten the screw.



Figure 1 - Mount with screw inserted for a rimless tank

Assembling the Rubber Stopper

The rubber stopper has two holes: an air inlet and a drain. The rubber stopper comes pre-assembled out-of-the-box for your convenience, with the exception of the air valve, which must be inserted in the air inlet hole on the top of the rubber stopper. It should look as shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2 – Rubber Stopper with air valve and drain elbow

Glass Skimmer Body Installation

Slide the skimmer body through the O-ring. slide the skimmer body into the mount from the top. The O-ring holds the skimmer body in place, allowing you to adjust its height. The lower the skimmer body, the wetter the skimmate that will be produced. We recommend that you begin placing the skimmer approximately 3.5" from the water line to the top of the glass, as shown in Figure 3. If the skimmate is too light, raise the skimmer body by lowering the O-ring. If the skimmer is not producing enough skimmate, lower the skimmer body by raising the O-ring.

Insert the rubber stopper through the top of the skimmer body, making sure that there is a tight seal.

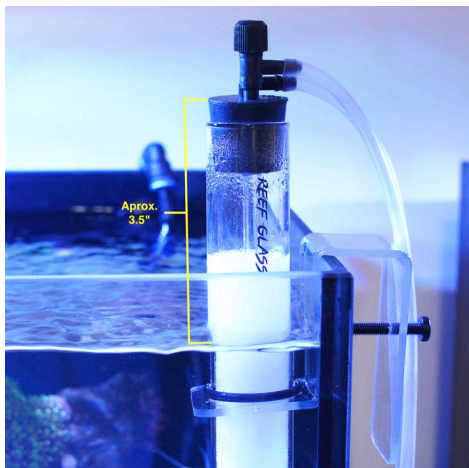


Figure 3 – Skimmer body height

Drain Hose Installation

The Reef Glass skimmer comes with 4' of flexible tubing, which can be used as a drain hose to transport the skimmate to your waste container. Connect one end of the tubing to the drain elbow connector as shown in Figure 4. The other end goes into your waste container. Cut the length of the tubing so that it comfortably reaches the waste container without loops or bends.



Figure 4 - Drain flexible tubing

Air must be able to flow at all times through the drain hose. If your waste container will remain uncapped, it is recommended that the drain hose hangs high on the waste container, leaving enough room for skimmate to accumulate without submerging the end of the tubing, as show in Figure 5.



Figure 5 - Uncapped waste container

Alternatively, you can also drill two holes on the waste container cap, and use the included straight tubing connector to connect the drain flexible tubing to the waste container as shown in Figure 6. The second hole is necessary in order to allow air to exit the container. The holes can be drilled using a 5/32" drill bit.



Figure 6 - Waste container cap with holes

Air Pump Installation

We suggest AP-3 Danner, Tetra Whisper 10 or 20 air pump (or equivalent). Note that limewood airstones require more pressure than regular airstones. Connect the airline coming from the air pump to the air valve located on the top of the rubber stopper.

We recommend that you initially close the valve and then tune the skimmer following the instructions below.

Tuning Your Skimmer

It will take some trial and error to get your skimmer producing skimmate the way you like it. Please be patient. After you get it right, your skimmer should operate with a high level of consistency, requiring little to no adjustment other than periodic maintenance.

The skimmer is tuned by adjusting its height (using the O-ring) and air volume (using the air valve).

Skimmer Height: We recommend that you begin by positioning the top of skimmer 3-4" from the water level of the aquarium (or sump) as previously shown in Figure 3. Raise the skimmer to get less but thicker/darker skimmate. We recommend lighter skimmate because it is less prone to clogging the drain.

Air Volume: Close the air valve until you get almost no bubbles. Then start to open the air valve slowly until you get a large amount of very fine bubbles, but careful not to overflow through the drain, as shown in Figure 7.

In most cases, you should wait up to a couple of days for the skimmer to "break in" and start generating skimmate. After that, you can start tweaking the skimmer body height and air volume in order to achieve the desired results.



Figure 7 - Skimmer with abundant micro-bubbles

Skimmer Maintenance

In most cases, the skimmer should be cleaned every 2-4 weeks. Use a soft toothbrush to clean the glass skimmer body, rubber stopper and limewood airstone.

Use a toothpick or similar object to clean any accumulated gunk that may be clogging the drain elbow.

If cleaning the limewood airstone with the toothbrush does not bring it back to its normal performance, you may use a razor blade to remove a thin layer of dirt and wood. Eventually, the limewood airstone should be replaced with a new one. The airstone should last 2-4 months, depending on your specific conditions.

If your skimmer suddenly stops generating bubbles, foam does not raise as usual or starts generating blurping sounds, make sure that the drain elbow is not clogged, inspect the drain flexible tubing for any obstructions and make sure it is not submerged in skimmate. Make sure that air can exit the drain tubing freely.

Thank you very much for your purchase. We hope you enjoy Reef Glass!