AXOLOTL AUTHORITY

Axolotl Tank Maintenance Checklist

TEST | CLEAN | RECORD

A simple daily, weekly, and monthly routine for a stable aquarium

Tank: _____ **Axolotl:** _____ **Week of:** _____

DAILY

A quick check that takes only a few minutes

- [ ] **Check temperature and equipment**
  Confirm cooling, filter flow, and air equipment are operating normally.
- [ ] **Observe your axolotl**
  Note appetite, posture, gills, skin, activity, and anything different.
- [ ] **Remove visible waste**
  Use an aquarium-only baster or siphon before waste breaks apart.
- [ ] **Remove leftover food**
  Do not leave uneaten worms or pellets to decay in the aquarium.

MONTHLY OR AS NEEDED

Let flow, debris, and test trends guide the timing

- [ ] **Inspect filter intake and output**
  Look for reduced flow, buildup, leaks, damage, and unsafe current.
- [ ] **Rinse clogged reusable media only**
  Use removed aquarium water and preserve established biomedia.
- [ ] **Check the impeller, tubing, and seals**
  Follow the current manufacturer directions for your equipment.
- [ ] **Review the testing record**
  Shorten the maintenance interval if nitrate or debris rises too quickly.
- [ ] **Check supplies and backup plans**
  Replace expired tests and confirm cooling and outage supplies are ready.

WEEKLY

Use your actual water results to confirm the routine

- [ ] **Test the complete water panel**
  Record temperature, ammonia, nitrite, nitrate, and pH.
- [ ] **Complete the planned partial water change**
  Use conditioned, temperature-matched replacement water.
- [ ] **Siphon debris from the bottom**
  Clean accessible areas without tearing down the entire habitat.
- [ ] **Wipe the viewing glass as needed**
  Use an aquarium pad with no soap or household cleaner.
- [ ] **Inspect hides, plants, and the lid**
  Check for sharp damage, trapped debris, loose pieces, and gaps.

AVOID THESE CLEANING MISTAKES

- No soap, sprays, or household cleaning products
- Do not replace every piece of filter media at once
- Do not scrub the entire aquarium as routine care
- Do not add untreated municipal water
- Do not chase pH with repeated quick-fix chemicals

THIS WEEK'S WATER RESULTS

Record before maintenance when possible

TEMPERATURE	AMMONIA	NITRITE	NITRATE	PH	WATER CHANGE

NOTES OR CHANGES _____

FOUR-WEEK ROUTINE TRACKER

- [ ] **Week 1** completed
- [ ] **Week 2** completed
- [ ] **Week 3** completed
- [ ] **Week 4** completed

Use with the Axolotl Water Parameters and Tank Cleaning guides. Follow current product directions.

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This educational checklist does not replace veterinary advice for an axolotl that appears unwell.