

Maintaining Cold Tank: Fall 2008

Clean the cold tank every 4-6 weeks and feed 1-2 times per month. However, in cases of large amounts of algal growth, cleaning more often may be necessary.

Cleaning the cold tank

- 1.) Turn off the cold tank lights (switch located in cabinet underneath the tank)
- 2.) Lift the lights up and remove the two lids.
- 3.) Remove the filter in the back left of the tank. Clean the algae out of the filter to prevent clogging of water flow.
- 4.) “Window washing”: Take the scrub brush by the sink and scrub algae off of the sides of the tank.
- 5.) Take a pipette tip to scrape algae out the crevices in the tank.
- 6.) Using tubing to make a suction device and a collection bucket, remove the majority of the algae that has accumulated on the bottom of the tank. Empty this water in the sink with a filter over the drain to catch the algae and do not dump the rocks. When finished, rinse the rocks to remove any remaining algae and let them dry until the next cleaning.
- 7.) Remove the bag from the filtration system behind the cold tank (on the left side) and replace with a fresh one. Rinse the removed bag to remove the algae and set in a bleach solution (~10%) until the next cleaning. At this point, remove from bleach solution and allow it to dry.
- 8.) Remove the protein skimmer, clean, and replace.
- 9.) Pour water in the filtration system behind the cold tank to restore water to the appropriate level. The water level in this tank should be above the level of the pump, but not above the black line. After adding water be sure to check back the next day to ensure that the water has equilibrated to the correct level.
- 10.) Evenly distribute the dried rocks from the previous cleaning in the tank and pat down so they are not floating on the top.
- 11.) Re-insert the filter in the back left.
- 12.) Wash the lids, but be sure to completely dry before putting back on.
- 13.) Bring the lights down and turn back on (it will take a couple of minutes for them to come back on)

Feeding the cold tank organisms

- 1.) Defrost a chunk of frozen shrimp in water.
- 2.) Using tweezers, feed each of the anemones, the brittle star, and the crab.