



Live Sand Beds

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Live Sand Beds

- Deep Sand bed
 - Generally more than 3 inches deep
- Shallow Sand Bed
 - Less than 3 inches deep

What makes a Sand Bed Good

- Area for Denitrification to occur
 - Very Similar to a plenum system
 - As far as nitrogen processing according to research a SSB, DSB and Plenum are about the same
- Area for lots of critters to live grow and reproduce

The *Live* Part of Live Sand

- Critters Turn the sand and keep it looking clean
- Critters eat detritus and convert it into biomass rather than decomposing.
- Critters reproduce creating plankton for your aquariums

Plankton why is it important

- Most corals eat plankton.
- Our tanks are very plankton poor compared to the wild reefs
- Plankton is very hard to simulate.

How to setup a Live sand bed

- The most important part of setting up a live sand bed is the Particle size of the sand.
- Very Fine sand is best, do not use Crushed coral
- .125MM average sand size is best
- Silica Sand will work size is most important
- Carrib Sea Aragamax, Southdown sand, ESV oolithic sand is great
- Greater depth gives more room for critters to live and more different types of critters to use

Starting Critters

- You can purchase “live sand” packages in many pet stores. This sand is not what I call live sand, it has some bacteria but no critters on/in it.
- “LIVE SAND” can be purchased at most LFS’s it is sand that is collected from the ocean and shipped with all critters.
- Detravore Kits are great the more critters you start with the better.
- Live Sand trades are great, again the more critters you have the better.

What not to do

- Vacuum the sand
- Add Sand Sifters they sift for food
 - Sand Sifting Gobies
 - Sand Sifting Star Fish
 - Hermit Crabs
 - Shrimp

Good Critters for a sand bed

- Nassarius Snails carrion eaters
- Sand Sifting Cucumbers
- Most brittle/serpent stars
- Queen/Fighting Conchs













