

CURING YOUR LIVE ROCK

Although we work tediously at WSI to provide you with the cleanest and most beautiful live rock on the market I still recommend that you also do some curing at your end before placing new rock in your established system. If you are only placing one or two rocks in a large established tank (100 gallon +) then I would not be too paranoid and give it the good old "smell test" and a very good rinse before placing it in your tank. Chances are that if you have only one or two rocks then you probably purchased it from a local dealer and it is conceivable that he has had it in his tanks and is already cured always ask a dealer you trust!

If you are dealing with a new tank set up then it is possible to cure the rock in your tank but you better make sure that it is fully cured and the white water and odor goes completely away before adding any livestock. Also check ammonia, and the usual other water parameters to be absolutely sure. This process could take several weeks so please be patient!

If you are dealing with transshipped rock into an established tank then I strongly suggest you follow the easy steps below to avoid any unfortunate (and smelly) mishaps in your precious reef tank.

Good luck!

How To Cure Live Rock

You need the following equipment:

- suitable size container (plastic garbage cans work well)
- protein skimmer (it will get a major workout)
- powerheads
- heater
- good quality salt mix
- a small scrub brush
- ammonia, nitrite, nitrate test kits

The basic method is as follows.

- scrub off any sponges and soft corals that have turned black
- water should have pH at 8.2-8.4 and S.G. at 1.023-1.025
- no lights for 7-10 days to avoid an algae bloom (high nutrients)
- keep water heated (74-80°F)
- do not do any water changes until Ammonia and Nitrites tests both read zero. Then do a 50-75% water change, vacuuming up as much loose sediment as possible.
- provide plenty of water movement within the container (powerheads)
- provide plenty of oxygenation in the water (done by skimmer which will need frequent cleaning)

The curing process will take 2-4 weeks depending on the amount of die-off on your rock and the effectiveness of your protein skimmer.

A simple but very effective treatment for eliminating unwanted critters in your Live Rock is to dip each piece in a bucket of very saline water (SG 1.030) for a few moments. Mantis shrimp will quickly evacuate the rock. Bristle worms will also crawl out and can be pulled from their holes with a pair of tweezers.