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Refugium Setup Tips

The AquaFuge should not be classified just as a traditional “filter”, since the benefits it delivers goes beyond just filtration. Its effectiveness and its benefits depend on how it is set up. The AquaFuge has the potential of increasing biodiversity, improving water quality, decreasing nuisance algae and providing greater stability for your aquarium.

There are a number of ways to set up and use your AquaFuge refugium. Here are just a few possibilities:

1. With or without a live sand bed. A live sand bed can assist with denitrification and provides a substrate for detritivores and other organisms. This is very beneficial to tanks that may lack live sand. Using specific refugium mud substrates will also increase the denitrification capabilities of the substrate bed due to the improved development of beneficial anaerobic bacteria.
2. Small pieces of live rock and/or rubble can provide a substrate for small corals, mushrooms, amphipods and copepods and algae.
3. The addition of a full spectrum light to the AquaFuge can provide excellent growing conditions for photosynthetic invertebrates and various species of algae. By having an area where algae can thrive, the competition for nutrients can help to reduce the growth of nuisance algae in the main tank while maintaining better, more stable aquarium water parameters.
4. The AquaFuge also makes coral propagation for reef tank owners easier. Small fragments can be placed into the relative safety of the AquaFuge, away from inquisitive animals and strong water movement. Here they will have a place to heal from the cutting and can attach to whatever substrate you offer them. The AquaFuge can be an ideal area for loose mushroom anemones and polyps to attach before being placed back into the main aquarium.