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# CLEANING YOUR TANK

*As always, remember how the pieces came apart  
so you can put them back together.*

1. Take cart and tank to a room with a big sink (custodian's room usually works best.)
2. Use the siphon to empty as much water from the tank as possible. When it is near empty, tip the tank to make sure you get out as much as possible.
3. With your hands or a plastic scoop, take as much gravel out of the bottom of the tank as possible being careful not to break the plastic undergravel filter plate. The gravel can be disposed of in the school's dumpster. Lift the heat exchanger out of the tank but be careful not to kink the padded hose attaching it to the refrigeration unit.
4. Carefully tip the tank up on the side of the sink and rinse out any excess gravel or scum using the custodian's hose.
5. Fill the tank with warm water to a depth of about 5 – 8 cm. Add  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a cup of vinegar to this water and scrub the inside of the aquarium with a non-abrasive scrub pad.
6. Take apart the powerhead as well as the water filter basket (all filters can be discarded). Be sure not to place electrical motorized appliances in the water. They can be wiped down. **There is a piece of glass under the light that is very delicate, please be careful.**
7. Everything such as the siphon hose, thermometers, nets and anything else used in or around the aquarium should be scrubbed in the vinegar water. The cart will also need to be scrubbed clean and dried before the tank is replaced.
8. Scrub and rinse the inside of the tank once again.
9. Carefully dump the water into the sink and rinse the inside of the tank one more time.
10. Dry the tank and all of the pieces and reassemble.
11. If there is an air compressor available, use it to get the dust out of the fan in the refrigeration unit on the bottom shelf.