**Items to Buy for Setting Up a SW Aquarium**

(A drilled tank MUST have a sump)

1. Aquarium and stand—for SW buy a drilled RR (reef ready) tank if possible
2. Hood/ Canopy for lights—many tanks use but many do not
3. Salinity measurement device—refractometer (preferred) or hydrometer
4. Water parameter test kits
5. Calcium
6. Nitrate
7. Phosphate
8. pH
9. Alkalinity (carbonate hardness—KH)
10. Magnesium
11. Thermometer—Liquid crystal type is accurate and unobtrusive
12. Magnetic glass cleaner—MagFloat is very good
13. Fish food—get a slow-medium sinking pellet—Spectrum is very good
14. Lights (obvious)—T5 or better for corals and fish. T5 or T8 for a fish only tank. **DON’T SKIMP ON PRICE**
15. Heater—fully submergible and horizontally positional
16. Power-heads—min. 2 with high flow rates—10-20x water volume per hour
17. Salt—Most popular is Instant Ocean but many others—buy well known
18. Protein skimmer—many options, but get a well-known name and one that is easy to use and care for. **DON’T SKIMP ON PRICE**
19. 5 gallon buckets
20. Optional 29 or 44-gallon Brute garbage can with wheels. For mixing SW in large batches.
21. 100% aragonite sand—approximately 1# per gallon for SSB. Do NOT use “play sand”
22. RO/DI Water—very important. Most LFS sell per gallon.
23. 1-1.5 pounds of live rock per gallon of system volume including sump
24. Return pump—3-5x water volume per hour after head loss
25. Sump container—either acrylic built or glass aquarium
26. Granulated Activated Carbon—helps remove chemicals from water and clears water
27. Granulated Ferric Oxide—removes phosphate from water
28. Media reactor to run GAC and GFO in
29. Gravel vacuum
30. Auto Top Off system and container
31. Overflow box if tank is not drilled and RR
32. Timers for lights
33. Power strips
34. Filter socks
35. Reef safe epoxy
36. Super glue—GEL only
37. Coral RX or Coral Revive—coral dip for parasites
38. 1 gallon or smaller WHITE bucket for coral dipping—white shows parasites
39. Quarantine tank (QT)for new fish and for sick fish—needs basic floss/carbon filter with pump (cheap FW type) and simple lights
40. Several 2” PVC fittings to put in QT for fish to hide in
41. Cheap towels
42. Small pump for water transfer
43. Vinyl tubing in different sizes—up to 5/8” for water changes
44. Supplements—calcium, alkalinity, magnesium—when needed
45. Coral foods
46. Coral spot feeder tube
47. Turkey baster—for blowing off live rock and gently cleaning corals if needed