



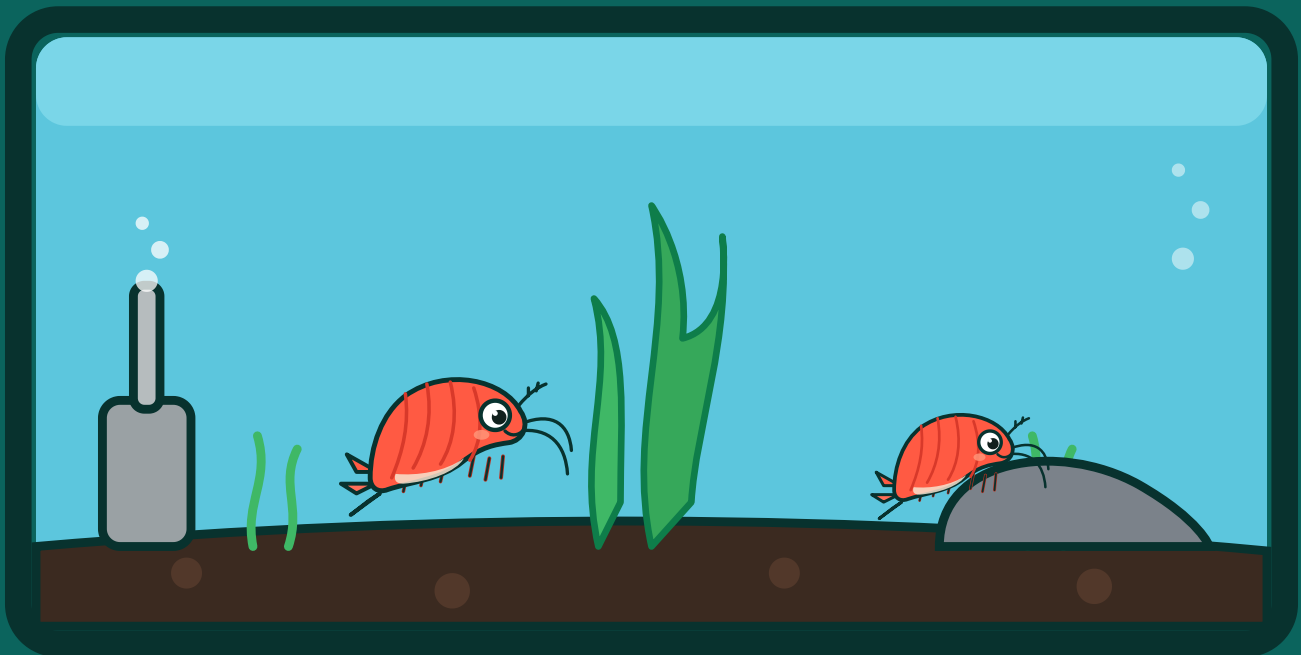
Buggs Aquatics

nano shrimp · fish · plants · aquascaping

The Buggs Aquatics guide to...

Neocaridina Shrimp Care

For **red cherry, bloody mary, chocolate, blue dream, blue diamond, jade green** & other "Neo" breeds — kept happy in a simple, low-maintenance tank.



Learn the basics to keep healthy, happy shrimp:

- Water Parameters
- Tank & Equipment
- Cycling an Ecosystem
- Acclimation
- Tank Mates & Food
- Maintenance



...meet Lil' Buggs!

Water Parameters

Stable water is the whole game. Neocaridina handle a wide range — what stresses and kills them is sudden change. Aim for these, but never chase a single number.

pH

Keep it steady — stability matters far more than the exact number.

6.5 – 8.0

GH

Minerals shrimp use to build & shed their shells. Too low = bad molts.

6 – 10 dGH

KH

Buffers the water and stops pH from crashing.

2 – 8 dKH

Temp

Warmer = faster growth, breeding & maintenance. ~72–75°F is the sweet spot.

65 – 78°F

Ammonia

Toxic waste from food & animals. Should always read zero.

0 ppm

Nitrite

The next step after ammonia — still toxic. Also zero once cycled.

0 ppm

STABLE beats perfect. A reading that's a little "off" but rock-steady is safer than a perfect number that bounces around. Don't chase numbers.

Nitrate

The safe end of the cycle. Keep it low with water changes.

0 – 20 ppm



Tank & Equipment

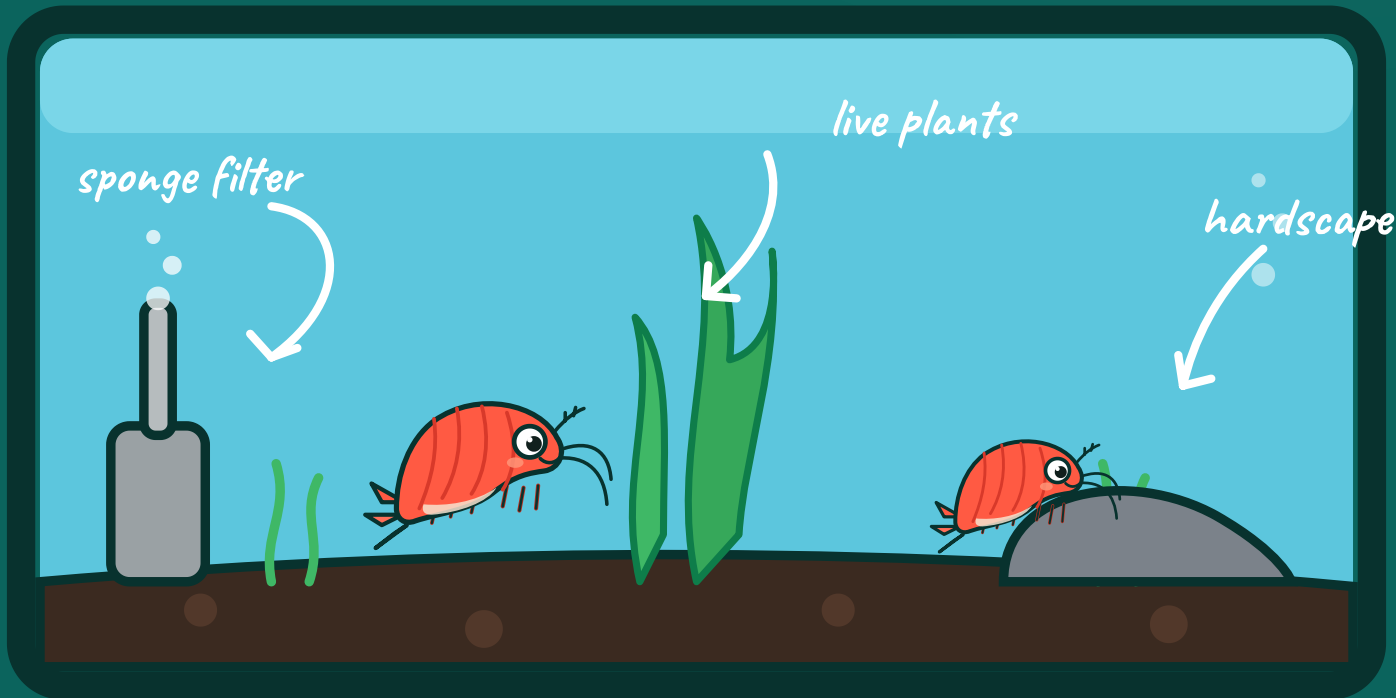
A low-maintenance shrimp tank is built from a few simple, well-chosen pieces. Spend on tank size and a good test kit — the rest is cheap.

Tank

5 gallons (19L) minimum. Bigger water volume = more stable & forgiving. Keep it level, out of direct sun and away from AC vents.

Light

Shrimp don't care about light — **your plants do**. Match it to your plants and run it on a timer (~6–8 hrs) to keep algae in check.



Substrate

An inert gravel or sand keeps parameters stable & is easiest for beginners. **Dark substrate** makes reds pop; light shows off blues & blacks.

Plants

Non-negotiable for a hands-off tank — they filter water, add oxygen & grow food for shrimp. Easy winners: Java moss, Java fern, Anubias, Buce, Cryptocoryne. Add a floating plant to soak up extra nutrients.

Sponge Filter

Run off an air pump — gentle flow that won't suck up babies, plus tons of surface area for the **biofilm** shrimp graze on. Size up one tank class.

Cycling an Ecosystem

Before any shrimp go in, you're growing an invisible colony of beneficial bacteria. This is the step beginners rush — and the one that decides whether your tank thrives or crashes.



Beneficial bacteria do this conversion for you — the nitrogen cycle.

How to cycle

- **Snail-in:** a few hardy snails feed the bacteria gently. Simple & forgiving.
- **Fishless:** dose ammonia & wait. Best if adding fish later.
- **Adding fish?** Do it 1-2 weeks before shrimp.

Ready when you see...

- Ammonia 0, Nitrite 0, Nitrate present
- New plant growth (bright green tips)
- A light film of algae & biofilm
- Tiny microfauna on the glass



Give it 6-8 weeks. A tank can "cycle" in days on paper, but the plants, biofilm & microfauna that keep shrimp alive take 6-8 weeks to mature. Patience is the #1 difference between a thriving tank and a dead one.

Quick setup tips

- Level the tank before filling.
- Substrate first, then pour water onto a plate to avoid clouding.
- Check if each plant's roots get buried or left out.
- Rinse inert substrate; never use soap.



patience pays off!

Acclimation, Mates & Food

Drip acclimation — the safe way in

Shrimp hate sudden change. A slow drip lets them adjust to your water over an hour or two.

- 1 Float the bag ~20 min so temperatures match.
- 2 Pour shrimp + water into a small container, slightly tilted.
- 3 Drip tank water in (~2-3 drops/sec) until the volume roughly triples over 1-2 hrs.
- 4 Net the shrimp into the tank — never pour the old bag water in.

Tank mates

Snails

A great cleanup crew — eat leftovers, churn substrate & warn you about copper. They breed fast (fair trade). Skip apple/mystery snails — they wreck plants.

Other shrimp

Neos mix with most. Avoid macro / "whisker" shrimp — they hunt Neos. Mixing different Neo colors breeds the color out into wild browns — keep one color per tank.

Fish — be careful

If a shrimp fits in the mouth, it's food — and babies always fit. If you must, pick gentle fish & pack the tank with moss:

- > Otocinclus
- > Chili / Pygmy rasbora
- > Pygmy Cory
- > Neon / Ember tetra
- > Kuhli loach
- > Small plecos



The energy rule: energy in must equal energy out. Every crumb of food becomes ammonia & nitrate, so more food = more maintenance. An established planted tank feeds shrimp on its own — supplement lightly, 2-3× a week. Overfeeding is the #1 rookie killer.



you got this! 

Maintenance & Supplies



Testing rhythm

Early on, test every few days to learn how fast your tank drifts. Once you know its rhythm, test about **weekly** — and always after big changes or any death.



Water changes

Small & steady — **10-20% weekly or biweekly**. Match new water's temp & parameters to the tank; the bigger the gap, the slower you add it. Always dechlorinate.



Tap water note: Tap water hardness, chlorine & chloramine vary by source and season. Always dechlorinate and test your tap GH/KH — many keepers run RO/DI water + a remineralizer for rock-steady parameters year-round.



Supplies checklist

- ✓ 5-gal+ tank, level surface
- ✓ Sponge filter + air pump
- ✓ Liquid test kit (Master + GH/KH)
- ✓ Inert substrate (dark = best reds)
- ✓ Dechlorinator *or* RO/DI + remineralizer
- ✓ Easy plants + 1 floater
- ✓ Drip acclimation kit (or DIY)
- ✓ Quality shrimp food



General tips

- Wash hands in plain water (no soap) first.
- Scrape glass algae with a razor or card.
- See a berried female? Change nothing — let it ride.
- **Copper kills shrimp** — check meds & ferts are shrimp-safe.

Start with healthy homebred shrimp!



Buggs Aquatics raises hardy, homebred Neocaridina, nano fish, shrimp & aquatic plants — ready for your tank. Local pickup available.

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