

Activated Carbon Dechlorination

By: Jason Juchems

Dechlorination is an important step to perform before introducing your reptiles, amphibians, or fish to their habitat. While this step is often over looked, most individuals who dechlorinate use chemically based products available commercially. For those wanting a natural solution to dechlorinating without using a Reverse Osmosis system, activated carbon is an option. The method described is used by the author for filling large aquariums and enclosures, and can be used for garden ponds.



Items Needed:

- Activated aquarium carbon
- Filter Media Bag
- Hose Saver
- Filter Sponge
- In-line hose shut off valve
- Zip tie



Cut a piece of the filter sponge to fit inside the exposed threaded end of the Hose Saver. You can see a slight edge of the sponge exposed in the picture on the left. It is exposed for picture purpose only, and should be fitted into the hose. On the top of the Hose Saver thread in the in-line hose shut off valve.

Place 2-3 inches of activated aquarium carbon into the filter media bag. Rinse well.

Place the sponge end of the Hose Saver into the middle of the filter media bag. Compact the carbon around the hose and zip tie the media bag around the Hose Saver to seal the media bag. Attach the Hose Saver to your hose when refilling your tank.

Using carbon is a more natural way of dechlorinating water than using sodium thiosulfate or formaldehyde. Acrylic Tank Manufacturing has a Vitamin C based water conditioner called Paradigm™. I often add this to the water as it helps with slime coat of fish and adds Vitamin C to the water while neutralizing chlorine and chloramines.

