HOW TO USE

THE SAND

NATURAL SAND FOR MARINE AQUARIUMS

- Sustainable, naturally sourced substrate from the Caribbean
- A high-quality alternative to traditional coral sand

THE SAND ORIGINATES FROM THE UNIQUE BAHAMAS BASIN, WHERE OOLITIC SAND NATURALLY FORMS.

This nearly white sand is composed of ooliths—round grains formed from calcium carbonate in the water column. These grains absorb organic substances and nutrients. The gentle extraction process preserves the natural quality of this unique sand, making it a premium choice to enhance your aquarium. It is ideal for initial setup or refilling.

YOUR OPTIONS:
BAHAMA NATURE & BAHAMA WHITE

BAHAMA NATURE:

- 100% natural sand with grain sizes of 0.4–0.8 mm.
- Unprocessed, simply rinsed—contains natural materials such as seagrass, shells, and snail shells.
- Perfect for burrowing animals like gobies, which appreciate the mix of rounded and slightly angular grains for more stable tunnels.
- Promotes oxygen saturation in the sand and contains beneficial minerals and bacterial spores.
- In rare cases, insoluble, small, magnetic, natural minerals may be present. These can easily be removed with a magnet.

Detail-shot Nature

Valenciennea sexguttata

BAHAMA WHITE:

- Pure, almost white oolitic sand with an average grain size of 0.1–0.3 mm.
- Gentle on sensitive fish skin.
- Also ideal for freshwater aquariums with fish such as Malawis or Tanganyikas.
- A visual highlight in any aquarium.

Detail-shot White

Macropharyngodon bipartitus
Note: Burrows into the sand when threatened—a slightly thicker layer should be chosen here.

COMPARISON:

THE SAND BY FAUNA MARIN	ARTIFICIAL CORAL SAND FROM EUROPE/ASIA
+ Natural ooliths from the Bahamas	- Calcium carbonate / dolomite / calcite
+ Naturally formed sand grains	- Mostly calcium carbonate with some magnesium
+ Natural composition	- Sharp-edged, hard material from sieving
+ Soft, rounded shapes	- Single size
+ Blend of various sizes	- Heavy materiale
+ Medium-weight material	- High acid resistance, strong storage effect
+ Low acid resistance, mild storage effect	- Very hard material, prone to scratching surfaces
+ Soft material, does not scratch glass	- Dusty, requires multiple cleanings and rinsing
+ Pre-cleaned, partially with natural biofilm	- Dusty, requires multiple cleanings and rinsing
- Slightly more expensive due to cleaning and shipping	+ Often cheaper due to short transport distances and industrial extraction
+ Lightweight material with high volume	- Heavy material requires less quantity for filling
+ Rapid bacterial colonization	- Standard colonization time

CARE INSTRUCTIONS:

To maintain the beauty and functionality of the substrate:

1. Depth of the substrate:
Maintain a substrate height of 2–5 cm.

2. Control water flow:
Ensure consistent water flow to minimize sediment buildup.

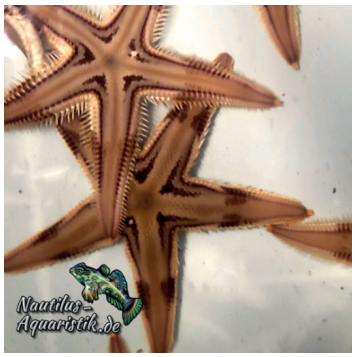
3. Regular replacement:
Replace a small portion of the sand during each water change, especially in areas with poor circulation.
If needed, vacuum the sand with a siphon to remove dirt particles and organic matter.

4. Natural cleaning:
Use bottom-dwelling animals such as snails, starfish, and gobies to keep the sand clean.

Mitra papalis

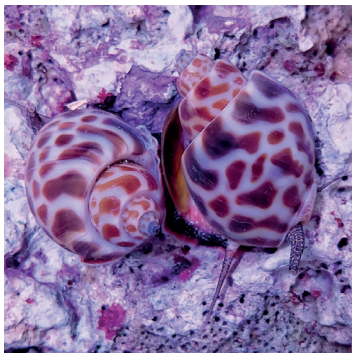
Clypeaster humilis

Cerithium



Astropecta sp.

Nassarius



Babylonia zeylanica

SETTING UP A MARINE AQUARIUM WITH FAUNA MARIN THE SAND

Step 1: Choose the grain size

Select the appropriate variant and grain size based on the needs of your aquarium inhabitants:
BAHAMA NATURE (0,4 – 0,8 mm):
Ideal for burrowing animals.
BAHAMA WHITE (0,1 – 0,3 mm):
Perfect for sensitive animals and aquariums with a focus on aesthetics.

Step 2: Prepare the sand

1. Wash the sand: Although the sand is pre-washed, it's recommended to rinse it again before use. Place the sand in portions into a bucket and rinse with tap water until the water runs clear.
2. Seawater rinse (optional): For even less cloudiness, rinse the sand with aquarium water after rinsing with tap water.

Step 3: Add the sand

1. Spread the base layer: Evenly distribute the sand on the bottom of the aquarium. A layer of 2–5 cm is ideal.
2. Consider decoration and flow: Position the water pumps so that the sand is not unnecessarily stirred up, but ensure there are no „dead" spots.

Step 4: Fill the tank with water

Carefully pour the water over a plate or dish to prevent disturbing the sand. After filling, the water may be slightly cloudy, but this will clear within 24–48 hours.

Step 5: Biological startup phase

Add live rock or bacterial starters to speed up the colonization of microorganisms. For starting with artificial reef structures, we recommend REEF START PRO BAC.

https://www.faunamarincorals.de/Reef-Start-Pro-Bac-60ml/12171V

HOW MUCH SAND DO I NEED FOR MY AQUARIUM?

The required amount depends on the desired layer thickness and the base area of your aquarium.
For an average layer thickness of 3 cm, you can use the following table:

Aquarium size (liters)	Base area (cm x cm)	Amount of sand (kg)
100 Liter (26.42 US gal)	80 x 40	9 - 10 kg
200 Liter (52.83 US gal)	100 x 50	15 - 16 kg
300 Liter (79.25 US gal)	120 x 60	22 - 24 kg
500 Liter (132.09 US gal)	150 x 60	28 - 30 kg

NOTE

- **If you use a thicker sand layer, increase the amount accordingly.**
- **It is recommended to always keep some extra sand on hand to compensate for any losses during cleaning.**

SAND OR NO SAND—
THAT IS THE QUESTION!

Whether an aquarium is set up with or without sand depends on several factors, including the choice of animals and plants, the desired appearance, and maintenance preferences. Here are the pros and cons of both approaches to help you make your decision:

WITH SAND

WITHOUT SAND

AQUARIUM WITH SAND

AQUARIUM WITH SAND **ADVANTAGES**

+ Natural Aesthetics:
Sand provides a natural look and gives the aquarium a harmonious, marine character.

+ Habitat for Bottom-Dwelling Animals:
Many creatures like gobies, starfish, snapping shrimp, and wrasse need sand to dig, hide, or search for food.

+ Supports Biology:
Sand acts as a substrate for beneficial microorganisms that break down waste and improve water quality.

+ Ground Cover for Plants and Corals:
Some plants and corals require a substrate to anchor themselves.

+ Thermal Insulation:
Sand offers some insulation and helps stabilize the temperature at the bottom.

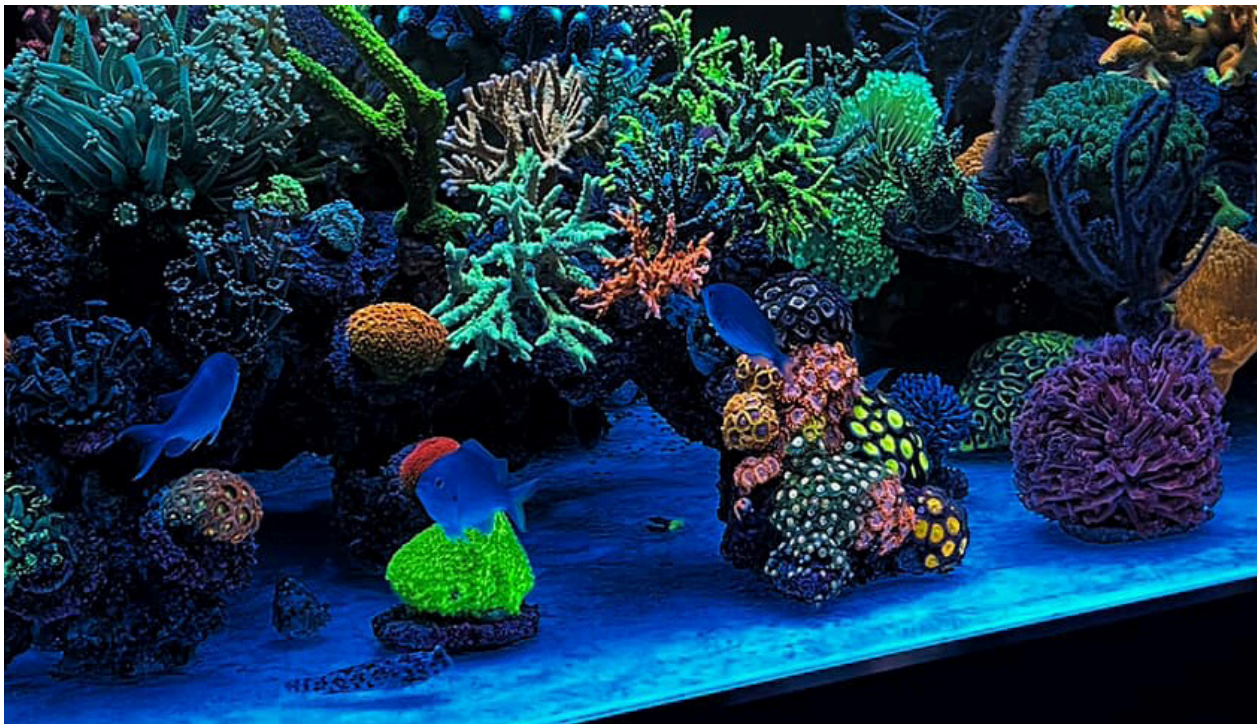
AQUARIUM WITH SAND **DISADVANTAGES**

- Cleaning Effort:
Sand collects organic waste and detritus, which needs to be removed regularly to avoid problems like algae growth.

- Compaction:
Fine sand can compact, leading to anaerobic zones that may produce toxic gases (e.g., hydrogen sulfide).

- Flow Sensitivity:
Sand can be stirred up by strong currents, potentially stressing filters or covering corals.

AQUARIUM WITHOUT SAND (BARE BOTTOM)



AQUARIUM WITHOUT SAND **ADVANTAGES**

+ Easy Cleaning:
Without sand, waste doesn't accumulate in hard-to-reach areas, and everything can be easily vacuumed up.

+ No Compaction Issues:
There is no risk of anaerobic zones or toxic gases forming.

+ Optimal Water Flow:
Water pumps can be set stronger without stirring up sand.

+ Flexible Setup:
Live rock or decorations can be placed directly on the glass bottom, providing stability.

AQUARIUM WITHOUT SAND **DISADVANTAGES**

- Artificial Appearance:
A bottom without sand often looks unnatural and less appealing.

- Limited Animal Selection:
Animals that require sand for living, such as burrowing fish or certain corals, are not suitable.

- Reduced Biological Filtration Capacity:
By not using sand, you lose a potential source for beneficial bacteria.

- Temperature:
Without sand, the substrate can be more susceptible to temperature fluctuations.

RECOMMENDATION

In most cases, an aquarium with sand is preferred, as it looks more natural and is essential for many animals. It is especially suitable for aquarium hobbyists planning a diverse population or those who value an aesthetic appearance.

A sand-free aquarium is ideal for specialized setups, such as coral propagation tanks, minimalist designs, or for hobbyists who prioritize easier maintenance and maximum water flow.

The decision largely depends on your goals and the species you plan to keep. If you're unsure, an aquarium with sand (such as Fauna Marin THE SAND) is a good starting point, which can easily be adjusted later.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Why is my aquarium cloudy after adding THE SAND?

This is a normal reaction as fine particles are stirred up. The cloudiness usually disappears within 24–48 hours, especially with the use of a good filtration system. To minimize this, lightly rinse the sand with tap water before adding it.

How often should I replace THE SAND?

It is not necessary to replace all the sand regularly. Instead, during each water change, a small portion of the sand—particularly in areas with poor circulation—should be vacuumed and replaced. This prevents the formation of stagnant zones and helps maintain a healthy aquarium.

Can I mix both grain sizes?

Mixing different grain sizes of sand can be useful to meet specific requirements and create a more natural substrate. Here are some considerations:

MIXING GRAIN SIZES **ADVANTAGES**

+ Stability for Burrowing Animals:
Combining larger grains (e.g., Bahama Nature) with smaller ones (e.g., Bahama White) can provide more stability for tunnel-dwelling animals like gobies or snapping shrimp.

+ Natural Appearance:
Mixed grain sizes often appear more natural, as many marine environments feature a variety of sand sizes.

+ Prevention of Compaction:
Pure fine sand (e.g., Bahama White) tends to compact more easily. Adding larger grains can help keep the substrate more permeable.

+ Optimizing Microhabitats:
Different grain sizes can allow various organisms to find their preferred microhabitats.

MIXING GRAIN SIZES **POTENTIAL DISADVANTAGES**

- Flow Disturbance:
Fine sand can be more easily stirred up by strong currents, especially if it is not evenly mixed with coarser sand.

- Increased Maintenance Effort:
Removing debris can become more difficult if the layers are not homogeneous, as fine sand tends to settle into the gaps between the coarser sand.

RECOMMENDATION

If you want to mix different grain sizes:

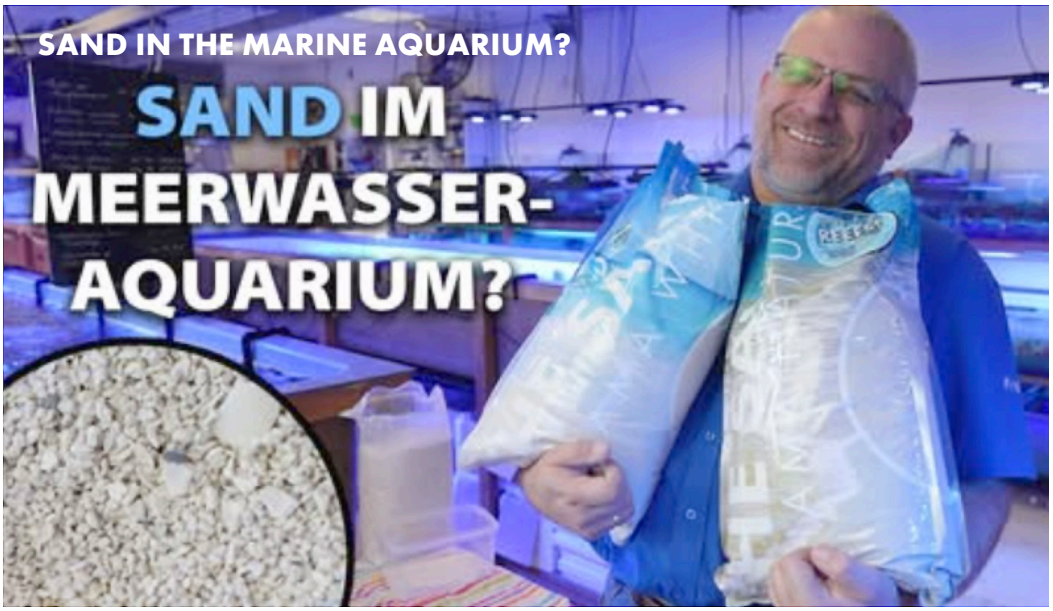
MIXING RATIO:

A ratio of about 70% coarser sand (Bahama Nature) to 30% fine sand (Bahama White) provides a good balance between stability and aesthetics.

LAYER STRUCTURE:

Place the coarser sand as the base layer and mix the fine grain on top. This prevents the fine sand from sinking too quickly into the lower layers.

WATCH...YOUTUBE!



https://youtu.be/ot9Q9jNrmNE?si=Pg6gnPQR98IFA9HX

CONSULTING:

**Here you will find help and support for the product,
as well as tips and tricks for marine aquariums:**

- CERTIFIED ICP CONSULTANTS:
  https://lab.faunamarin.de/en/advisor-list

- VALUE + DOSAGE CALCULATOR:
  https://lab.faunamarin.de/en/calc

- KNOWLEDGE DATABASE ON ALL CHEMICAL ELEMENTS:
  https://www.faunamarin.de/en/knowledge-base/

- INSTRUCTIONS/HTUS:
  https://www.faunamarin.de/en/support-downloads/

- FACEBOOK GROUP:
  https://www.facebook.com/groups/1490705804549503/

- YOUTUBE CHANNEL:
  https://www.youtube.com/@FaunaMarin_Official/videos

- EMAIL:
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HAPPY REEFING!

FAUNA MARIN GmbH