



HEATER FAILURE

The aquarium is colder than normal and fish are slow, hiding, clamping fins, or breathing differently.

THE THERMOMETER IS THE EVIDENCE. WARM GRADUALLY.

DBC
AQUATICS

RESCUE. SOLVE. PREVENT.

AT A GLANCE

SAFE

DISCONNECT DAMAGE

Power off before touching equipment.

TEMP

VERIFY TEMPERATURE

Use a reliable second thermometer.

HEAT

WARM GRADUALLY

Return only to the species range.

TEST

CHECK THE SYSTEM

Oxygen, ammonia, nitrite, filter flow.

HEATER RESCUE - DO THIS IN ORDER

1

MAKE EQUIPMENT SAFE

If the heater is cracked, damaged, exposed, or behaving strangely, disconnect submerged equipment at the outlet before reaching in.

2

CONFIRM THE READING

Check the aquarium thermometer and, if possible, verify with a second thermometer in another part of the tank.

3

FIND WHAT FAILED

Check the outlet, GFCI, power strip, water level, placement, circulation, heater sizing, and room temperature.

4

RESTORE HEAT GRADUALLY

Use a working heater suited to the aquarium. Set it for the normal species range, not above it to warm faster.

5

CHECK OXYGEN AND WATER

Confirm surface movement and filter flow. Test ammonia and nitrite if power or filtration also failed.

6

MONITOR THE RESPONSE

Watch the thermometer and fish behavior. Look for steady recovery, no overshoot, and stable water quality.

DO NOT DO THIS

- ✗ Do not reach into water with damaged equipment powered.
- ✗ Do not pour hot water into the aquarium.
- ✗ Do not set the replacement heater too high.
- ✗ Do not make a giant hot water change.
- ✗ Do not medicate cold-stressed fish first.
- ✗ Do not seal the tank and block gas exchange.

SIGNS YOU MAY SEE

- Low thermometer reading
- Hiding or lying low
- Slow movement
- Several fish affected
- Clamped fins
- Heater not responding

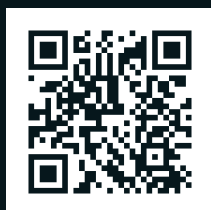
DBC RESCUE METHOD

Stop › Observe › Test › Diagnose › Act › Monitor › Prevent

EMERGENCY TARGETS

Temperature	Normal species range
Direction	Gradual recovery; no overshoot.
Ammonia	0 ppm
Nitrite	0 ppm

SCAN FOR FULL GUIDE



dbcaquatics.com/aquarium-rescue

GET EXPERT HELP IF...

- Fish collapse or cannot stay upright.
- The tank is outside the safe species range.
- Damaged electrical equipment or severe distress is present.

Contact an aquatic veterinarian when distress is severe or continuing.