

Mudskipper Care Sheet

What Is a Mudskipper?

- A Mudskipper is a **special fish that can live on land and in water**.
- They come from **warm, muddy coastal areas**.
- They are fun to watch but need **very exact care**.
- An adult should always help with setup and care.

Tank (Home) Setup

- Mudskippers need a **brackish tank**, not freshwater.
- The tank must have:
 - **Shallow water**
 - **Land areas** made of sand, rocks, or mud
- They need space to **climb, sit, and move around**.
- Use a **secure lid** (Mudskippers can jump out).

Brackish Water (EXTREMELY IMPORTANT)

- Brackish water is **part fresh water and part salt water**.
- Use **marine salt only**, never table salt.

Correct Water Parameters

- Salinity: **1.005–1.015 specific gravity**
- pH: **7.5–8.5**
- Ammonia & nitrite: **0**
- Nitrate: **as low as possible**

Why Brackish Water Matters

- Freshwater can **kill Mudskippers slowly**.
- Too much salt can **burn their skin and gills**.
- Wrong water causes **stress, sickness, and death**.

Important Rules

- Always mix salt **before** adding water to the tank.
- Use a **hydrometer or refractometer** to check salinity.
- Check water levels **every week**.

Temperature (VERY IMPORTANT)

- Mudskippers need **warm water and warm air**.
- Use a **thermometer** for both water and tank air.

Correct Temperatures

- Water temperature: **75–82°F (24–28°C)**
- Air temperature: **78–85°F (26–29°C)**

Why Temperature Matters

- Too cold = slow movement and sickness.
- Too hot = stress and breathing trouble.
- Wrong temperature can **shorten their life**.

Heating Rules

- Use an aquarium heater with a **thermostat**.
- Never guess the temperature.
- Check temperatures **every day**.

Lighting (VERY IMPORTANT)

- Mudskippers need **bright daytime light**.

- Lighting helps with:
 - Activity
 - Appetite
 - Natural behavior

Lighting Rules

- Use a **daylight aquarium light**.
- Provide **10–12 hours of light each day**.
- Turn lights off at night so they can rest.
- Do not leave lights on all the time.

Land and Substrate

- Use **soft sand or mud-like substrate**.
- Land areas must stay **damp, not dry**.
- Mudskippers breathe through **moist skin**, so dryness is dangerous.

Water Quality and Cleaning

- Perform **small water changes every week**.
- Always mix new brackish water first.
- Never pour fresh water directly into the tank.
- Use a filter that **does not create strong currents**.

Food

- Mudskippers eat:
 - Small insects
 - Frozen foods (like bloodworms)

- Special sinking pellets
- Feed **small amounts every other day**.
- Remove uneaten food.

Handling

- Mudskippers should **not be handled**.
- Touching them can damage their skin.
- Watching is the best way to enjoy them.

Health Warning Signs

Tell an adult if you see:

- Staying out of water too long
- Trouble moving or jumping
- Red or damaged skin
- Not eating
- Gasping or acting weak

Most Important Things to Remember

- **Brackish water is the most important part of care**
- **Temperature and lighting must be correct**
- Check salinity, heat, and lights often
- Mudskippers are not beginner pets
- Always ask an adult or aquatic expert if unsure