



Supply List Before Getting Your Axolotl

Bare Minimum for 1 Axolotl

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| 29 gallon aquarium | \$70 (\$35 at Petco's half-off sale) |
| Sponge filter for 20g | \$10 |
| Hang-on-Back Filter for 50g | \$40 (Aqua Clear/Fluval suggested) |
| Air Pump (Tetra Whisper 20g) | \$10 |
| Thermometer | \$5 |
| Aquarium baster (aka Turkey) | \$10 |
| At least one hide, e.g. terracotta pot or PVC pipe (schedule 30) | \$3+ |
| Fans/Chiller for cooling axolotl | \$20+/\$300+ |
| Sheet of egg crate/Plaskolite | \$17 |

Chemicals – Must Buy

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|---|------------|
| API Master Test Kit | \$25 |
| Dr. Tim's or another ammonia source for cycling | \$10 |
| SeaChem Prime | \$17/26 oz |

Food Source

Axolotls under 3-inches have special feeding needs

From 3-inches until adult:

- Earthworms (European or Canadian Nightcrawlers)
- Red Wiggers
- Pellets (Rangan for Axolotls or Hikari Carnivore Pellets)
- Blood worms as a treat

Adult – same as 3-inches plus:

- Raw Frozen shrimp or salmon as a treat
- Live neocaridina/ghost shrimp or live-bearing fish as a treat (must be quarantined for 30 days prior to adding to axolotl tank)

*Typically a dish or pair of long, aquarium tongs with rubber sleeves are used for feeding



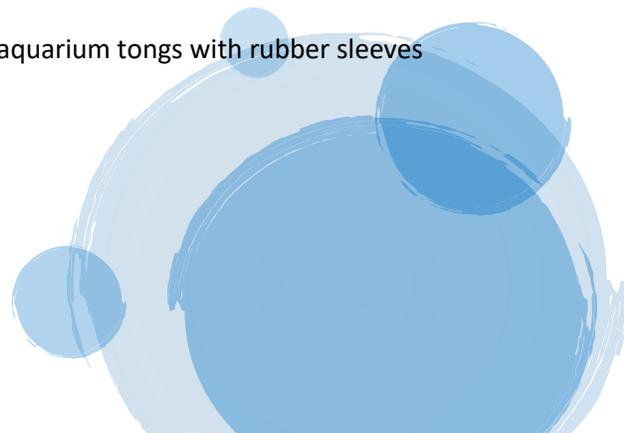
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Axolotls



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Optional

Larger Aquarium – Floor space is key, more volume is also helpful. (no upper limit, see next page)

Nice stand (Always support that the entirety of the aquarium rests on and rated to hold the weight of the aquarium filled with water without bending over time)

Food-grade safe 3-5 gallon container for tubing

REQUIRED if your tank is not cycled prior to receiving axolotl (<\$10)

Cannister Filter, HOB Filter, and/or more sponge filters – Filtration must be at least double the tank volume
I DO NOT recommend cartridge-type HOB filters.

Syphon, such as Python, for water changes (\$15-100 depending on length)

Seeded filter to speed up cycling (\$12-\$85, depending on source and size)

Bottled Beneficial Bacteria to speed cycling (\$10+ depending on how much you need)

Fritzyme Live Nitrifying Bacteria/Tetra Safe Start/Dr. Tim's One-and-Only/Microbe-Lift/Fluval

More hides, such as PVC pipe or lizard caves – make sure they are both aquarium safe and smooth for axolotl

Live plants (aquatic and/or for top of aquarium)

Silk plants

Tile for flooring, sand only if over 6" long, bare bottom is often preferred

Repti-hammock from ZooMed (no metal riggs) and/or shelves to add resting space

Heater for cycling and keeping warm if temps are unstable and drop below 60°F

Fans or chiller to keep tank below 68°F (\$20+/\$300+ - chillers can run up to \$650 for larger tanks)

Thermostat to control heater and fans

When purchasing an aquarium

Choose the largest floor space possible. Axolotls require a mid-size or larger aquarium due to their high bioload. Expected cost is from \$1/gallon on-sale new/used to \$900 (no upper limit).

A 20g long may house a single, juvenile (<9-inches) axolotl.

A 29g may house a single adult axolotl. In all likelihood, you'll upgrade from this.
(30" x 12" x 12/18") Floor space = 360 sq inches/2.5 sq ft.

A 30g breeder is acceptable for one adult or two juvenile (<8 inches) axolotls.

(36" x 18" x 12") Floor space = 648 sq inches/4.5 sq ft.

*Despite the floor space being acceptable for more, the volume for bioload limits the number.

A 40g breeder or 50g is acceptable for 1-2 axolotls due to water volume.

(36" x 18.5" x 16/19") Floor space = 648 sq inches/4.5 sq ft.

A 50g "low boy" or frag tank is acceptable for 1-3 axolotls. (2 maximum is better.)

(48" x 24" x 10") Floor space = 1152 sq inches/8 sq ft.

*Despite the floor space being acceptable for more, the volume limits the number.

A 55g is acceptable for 1-3 axolotls. (2 maximum is better.)

(48" x 13" x 21") Floor space = 624 sq inches/4.3 sq ft.

A 60g breeder is acceptable for 1-3 axolotls

(48.5" x 18.5" x 16.25") Floor space = 864 sq inches/4.5 sq ft

A 65g is acceptable for 1-3 axolotls (36" x 18.5" x 24")

Floor space = 648 sq inches/4.5 sq ft

*Despite the volume capacity ostensibly being acceptable for more, floor space limits the number.

A 75 g is acceptable for 1-5 axolotls. (3 maximum is better.)

(48" x 18" x 21"). Floor space = 864 sq inches/6 sq ft

The above suggestions are generally accepted minimums to maximums, depending on the information source.

I suggest a minimum of 3 sq ft floor space for first adult axolotl and 1.5 sq ft floor space for every additional cohabitating axolotl with 30g for first axolotl and 20g for each additional cohabitating axolotl.

This adjusts the minimum single axolotl aquarium to a 30g breeder, 50g+ for 2 axolotls, and 75g+ for 3 axolotls.

Axolotls can only be housed with same length and head size AND same sex axolotl tank mates.

Cohabitating axolotls risks nipping and difficult-to-control parameter fluctuations. Axolotls do not need tank mates as they are not social creatures and can be perfectly happy alone.

****Always clean a used aquarium. Do NOT use soap! Always leak test any aquarium, new or used.****