

# Protocol for Soaking/Leaching Spools

## 1. Gather supplies:

- ☐ Ethanol spray bottle
- ☐ Tank for leaching
- ☐ Wound seed spools
- ☐ Sodium hypochlorite (or bleach without any added chemicals)
- ☐ Aquarium pump
- ☐ Freshwater
- ☐ Saltwater
- ☐ Spool storage bin
- ☐ Paper towels

## 2. Prepare a tank and a small aquarium pump for soaking your wound spools.

## 3. Clean and bleach the tank and pump.

- Bleach the tank for a minimum of 2 hours using tap water.
- Add bleach to your tank to exceed 500 ppm. You can test this using chlorine test strips.
- Circulate the water in the tank with the small aquarium pump during the entire sanitizing and leaching process.

## 4. Neutralize the bleach in the water in your tank with sodium thiosulfate.

- Approximately 1–2 grams of sodium thiosulfate will be required to neutralize 1 gallon of a 500 ppm chlorine solution.
- Always use a test strip to check that the chlorine is neutralized after you add and stir in the sodium thiosulfate.

## 5. Place your wound seed spools in the tank with the neutralized tap water and let them soak for 24–48 hours.

## 6. Monitor the water for cloudiness.

- If the water gets cloudy quickly within the first 24 hours, dump the cloudy water and restart the process with step #2.

## 7. After 24–48 hours, if the water still looks clear, remove the spools from the water and place them in a clean area while you drain the tank.

## 8. Wipe the tank down with ethanol, and rinse it with sterilized seawater.

## 9. After rinsing, fill the tank with sterilized seawater and soak the spools for a second time for 24 hours.

## 10. After soaking, remove the spools from the tank and leave them in a clean space to dry.

- Place the spools on a clean surface in an area away from contamination sources, including running seawater.
- Dust and contaminants in the air can stick to the wet spools and cause contamination issues in your nursery later on.

## 11. Once the spools have dried, store them in an airtight cabinet or bin that has been wiped down with ethanol.

- Line the cabinet or container with clean paper towels to make sure the spools do not come in direct contact with the bottom or walls.

## 12. Keep the spools in a dry place until use.

- Use desiccant if necessary.