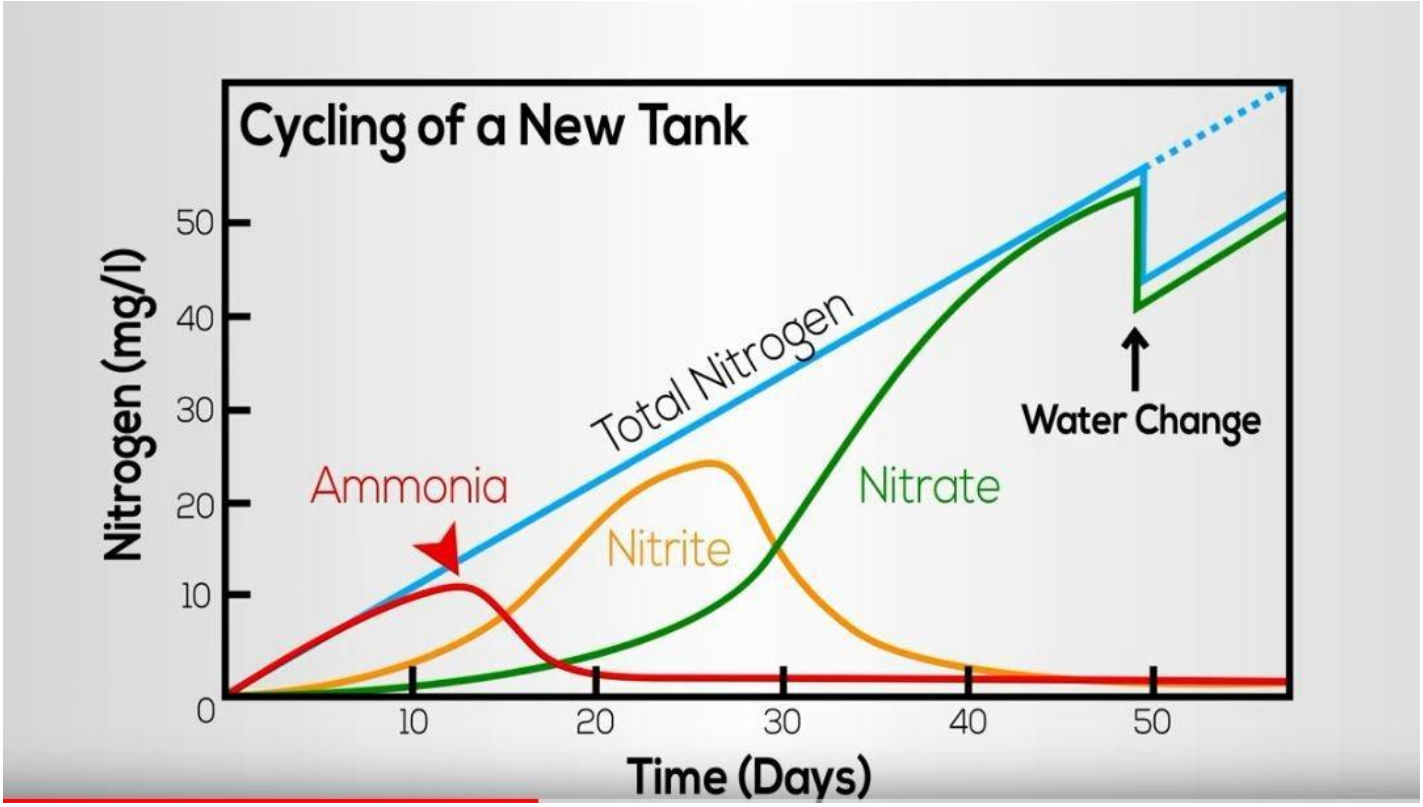
The basics:

1. SALT- red sea salt (reef) specific brand. They have two options I think…one for fish only and one for reef's. this one has more iodine, strontium, calcium etc all of which are needed in higher levels for coral.
2. Sand- I like the Bahamas oolite sand and a brand called "tropic of eden" that has tons of different options. The tropic of eden brand comes from 1 website but if you google that sand it pops up quick. I would get a few bags of "live sand" to jump start the whole cycling process. Then get some dry sand but wash the shit out of it. It will make the water milky white for days-weeks maybe if you don't. if you wash the sand (live stuff) obviously you just murdered the saltwater bacteria you paid for. Don't do that lol.
3. Water- use reverse osmosis water for refils due to evaporation. You don't need to add more salt because it stays in the water column. I had a chemist at U of L kill a grand of fish b/c he used mortons salt. Don't do that either. Its crazy high in iodine and meant for food…I know you know this but I just stared at this guy like wtf really!!? For the initial set up of the tank you can use tap. Just use a product called prime to get the chlorine etc out.

So from this part you need:

a. Water jugs to haul RO water later….whole foods and the pet store in perrysburg sells RO water.
b. Prime to remove chlorine
c. SAND – usullay 1-2 lbs per gallon. I would go with 125 ish pounds and see where that gets you. Buy 150 initially and then you have another 1-2 bags for later if needed. I keep my sand beds deep for the anaerobic filtration because im a lazy bitch and hate water changes.
d. Ammonium chloride – dr. tims brand (to speed up cycling) this is a big nerd tip.
e. TEST kit for "saltwatermaster kit" google that. It's the best one out there. It test for nitrate, nitrite, ammonia, pH etc. definetly a must have. I also test phosphate, potassium, calcium and iodine. But those are usually separate kits. Not needed in the early parts.
f. RED SEA brand "reef" salt.
g. Hydrometer (so you can make the saltwater)

Filtration: I
could talk for hours here. Starting with this.



This is why I saw but dr. tims ammonium chloride salt. Jump start that shit. Basically fish will shit. This starts as ammonia. Ammonia is bad….just like in people with encephalopathy the fish look like shit and die. And when that's a 150 buck hippo tang (dory) that's depressing. This is why I always told people to go very slow and add few fish at a time. OR best way to go is cheat with that ammonium chloride solution….test it and once everything is stable add fish. Start with hardy fish. I started with a clown fish (nemo) I still have the original fish. I got her at 13…I say her because every two weeks she lays 500 eggs lol.

Fish shit= ammonia
Ammonia gets ate by bacteria and turns to nitrite
Different bacteria turn that to nitrate.
Nitrate is where you do water changes OR do what I do.

I use plants/ macroalgae and mangrove trees. They eat nitrate and my nitrate has been 0 for years. I also use a wet dry filter….the picture you got with a ton of balls in it with water dripping down. I actually made that so im not sure who sells those anymore. Very hard to come by now.

I use it for the stability. The tiny holes in those balls hold billions of bacteria that eat nitrate. I don't get why most hobbyist have opted out of them. Other than its ugly.

PROTEIN SKIMMER

Protein skimmer is another way. This removes the organics (shit) before it becomes ammonia. So all that foam on the beach kids play in…its 100% pure fish shit. That's natures protein skimmer. Basically a very expensive device that uses a fancy pump to inject microair bubbles into a jet stream pulling shit out as it sticks to the buubles. Shit comes to the top and clean water sinks. Then 1x a week I dump the poo water out. This prevents ammonia from even starting but doesn't get it all. Its like the kidneys of the tank to me. Pretty important haha.

I like these brands reef octopus, Nyos, bubble magnus

(reef octopus classic 152 –s at $349.99). I have this one. Its my back up skimmer in case my in use one goes out of commission.

Nyos 120 quantum (at $399.99) this is the one I use right now in my tank.

REFUGIUM:

This is the plant method. I literally plummed another tank from my sump (same brand you just got except a 25 gallon lagoon). I then planted trees in it and grow alge. It hideous. But no water changes ever. You can incorporate a refugium in most sumps but light must be present and then algae will grow…meaning it grows on your skimmer and pump and everything else. It pisses me off then so I did this.

ALGAE SCRUBBER

An alternative to this is an algae scrubber. I used one on my seahorse tank back before residency started. They are dirty little things. It basically makes a waterfall….and that high oxygen to light and movement ratio makes the algae grow like crazy. Its loud and must be cleaned like every few days. You wont need this or the refugium until much later. If you decide to do this vs. water changes. These are alse crazy expensive….mine was like 600 bucks. Its at moms house now still. Only did this because I got 50% off lol. Plus seahorses were the coolest thing ever. Will get em again when residency is over.

SUMP:

This is literally the most important. It's the base of the filter. I have a trigger system 30" that cost about 269.99. My tank is actually 75gallon…..not 100…..its 100 total but the apartment place has a limit of 55 gallon so I had to lie and say this tank is 55 gallons. And the 75 gallon one fit. So you can get a bigger sump. Atleast the 36" version of this id imagine. That's 339.99 on marine depots website.

PUMP

You need two…one to take water from the sump back to the tank and one to add motion/waves in the tank it self. I have a gyre something in tank pump that was 300 ish bucks and a ventra 1s I think that was 299.99.

I love the echotech brand…..everything I have is that brand with the exception of my in tank pump. Im getting that for x mas or whenever this one dies (its about to die). The vortex/ventra pumps and the light (RADION) are my favorites…..btw lighting could be 10 pages….but we talked some at work. I have the double version of the echotech radion. That was like $850 I think. I love that this. It also connects to wifi with the pumps and makes thunder storms etc. pretty legit brand there. Just pricy.

Other brands for lighting are aqua illumination -HYDRA and a ton more but I think echotech and aqua illumination are the top dogs in that regard.

So beyond that basics list:

1. RETURN pump from the sump filter
2. SUMP itself
3. IN TANK pump
4. Plumbing for the tank to pump connections (wait until it comes to your house).
5. LIGHTING
6. Protein skimmer….this can wait though like 2-3 weeks after you add fish

The rest can wait. Just wanted you to know its out there.

Rock….dont get that ugly painted shit. Buy the base rock. Its white but will turn purple. I am cleaning my glass soon and can give you purple coralline algae that way. Live rock is good too. Just make sure its cured but id get a few of those and use primarily base rock. Otherwise at like 8 bucks per pound the live rock/fake purple shit will cost a fortune. Not worth it.