



Free Aquaponic Information and Resources

Hi folks.

In this PDF you'll find a list of free resources that may come in handy when you start designing, building and run your own DIY aquaponic system. Keep in mind that these are only a few resources freely available as I didn't want to overwhelm folks with the multitude that are out there.

[What is aquaponics, the bare bones basics](#)

[Aquaponic IBC System - Chop & Flip IBC Style](#)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_VROMhAoSs&list=PLBcWprMlwYy3Y3tUNUMWhO-g_ZhWfijY&index=1

[Aquaponic Barrel System - Chop & Flip Style](#)

To use the links all you need to do is make sure you're online then click/tap on any underlined text and you will be taken straight to the listed resource.

There are also links to some Aussie retailers listed at the end of the document. These are for the people that ask me regularly where they can buy resources from to build and run their aquaponic systems.

At this point in time I receive no sponsorship or endorsement from any of the listed companies and will update future versions of the PDF if the situation changes.

If you would like to show your appreciation for the work put into this document and our [YouTube channel](#), a small donation can be made through [PayPal](#) or you might like to check out our "[Farm You Own Yard](#)" where members get access to exclusive content.

YouTube

Channels mentioned in the Free Aquaponic Resources clip.

[Bright Agrotech YouTube Playlist](#) is where you'll find useful clips for the backyarder as well as some suited towards the commercial side of Aquaponics. They also [Bright Agrotech also have a Blog](#) where they post helpful articles for farmers of all things "ponic".

Rob's [Bigelow Brook Farm YouTube Playlists](#). While you're visiting Rob's channel check out his "[The Better Bell Siphon](#)" clip. It may help some folks out that are having issues with high flow rates into their media beds. Rob also runs the [Bigelow Brook Farm website](#) where he showcases some of the innovative products he's produced.

Affnan from the [Affnan Aquaponics](#) is very well known throughout aquaponic circles for his work on the bell siphon. He's the gentleman that added the reducer coupling to the top of the standpipe that helps to initiate the siphon and make them less troublesome. He also has clips on how he likes to build and run his aquaponic systems. [Affnan also has a blog](#) where you'll find more details on his bell siphon designs and small system builds.



“[Starting An Aquaponic System](#)” playlist on our [YouTube channel](#) contains some very helpful clips for those wanting to learn more about aquaponics or are looking to build their own backyard system.



[What is aquaponics and How Does It Work?](#) is a great place to start if you're new to aquaponics and would like an introduction to this growing method. You'll also find clips looking at [Three Commonly used aquaponics system layouts](#) for the backyard, [9 Essential components used in backyard aquaponics systems](#) as well as component and complete aquaponics system build videos. I've also added a few in clips looking at adding fish to the system as well as a very efficient harvesting method for them once they're ready for the BBQ.

Facebook

Helpful Facebook groups I like to wander through are,

[Aquaponics Anonymous](#)

[Aquaponics](#)

If you're after a group in your region just type “aquaponics” into the Facebook search bar then the area you're interested in and a few suggestions may pop up.

Some Aussie Facebook groups I like to visit,

[Brisbane Aquaponics](#)

[Aquaponics Australia](#)

[Aquaponics Australia Official](#)

[Victorian Aquaponic Enthusiasts](#)

Aquaponic Forums

There are many forums out there so do a bit of a search and look around to see which suit you the best. I've found these to be some of the better free forums,

[Backyard Aquaponics Forum](#)

[Aquaponics Nation](#)

[Aquaponic Gardening Community](#)



Websites

There are also a few helpful Aquaponic websites out there offering up **free information** to help the beginner out. These are a few that I've used. Have a look for yourself and you may come across another useful gem, feel free to let me know if you do.



The Backyard Aquaponics website not only hosts links to their forum and the IBC of Aquaponics (mentioned below), it also has a basic [Guide to Aquaponics](#). It does a great job at covering the basics newcomers will need to grasp before building a system.

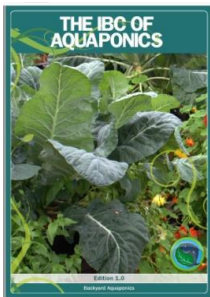
Dr Wilson Lennard also has a few very helpful fact sheets and calculator downloads available from his [Aquaponic Solutions](#) website that will help the backyarder.



When dispatching fish I like to use the [iki jime method](#). This method of dispatching fish not only minimises stress but it also helps to retain quality of the fish. The website has listings on many popular species of fish from around the world.

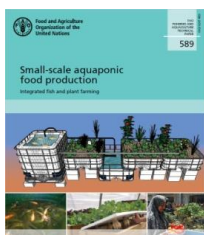
Downloads

In the [IBC of Aquaponics](#) download, Backyard Aquaponics have included 18 pages of basic aquaponic information aimed at those looking at setting up their first aquaponic system. This includes a walk through a simple IBC build from their clip linked in my playlist menu above.



The helpful introduction is followed by a look at over 40 DIY backyard systems put together by folks from the Backyard aquaponic forum. This is one document that I returned to many times when first starting out and picked up quite a few useful ideas from.

The [Small-scale aquaponic food production. Integrated fish and plant farming](#) download from the



Food and Agriculture Organisation (UN) covers a lot of topics to do with designing, building and running an aquaponic system. It will interest not only those that have a small scale system in mind but those that want to grow enough veggies to feed a small community using aquaponics.



The Southern Regional Aquaculture Centre (SRAC) has a load of [publications you can download](#) on aquaculture covering alligators all the way through to tilapia and trout. Haven't heard of anyone doing gatorponics but one of our Patreon members are playing around with turtleponics so I suppose anything is possible. They do have some papers on [Recirculating Aquaculture Systems](#) (RAS) for those after something a bit more in depth.



[Researchgate has quite a number of aquaponic papers](#) that folks may find useful.

A handy one for Aussies running silver perch is the [Development of a Health Management Strategy for the Silver Perch Aquaculture Industry](#) paper. This one also includes an optimum feed rate chart for the silver perch (page 195) which some may find helpful. I use the same feed rate for jade perch as well just to let you know.

You can also find useful information packs from government and other regulatory agencies. I found one such publication, [Diagnosis, treatment and prevention of the diseases of the Silver Perch](#) from the NSW Department of Primary Industry. It was very helpful when it came to diagnosing a recent issue I was having with our silver perch.

For folks in the USA, you may also want to check out your local [county extension offices](#), as they may have some aquaponic resources available.

Local Organisations

Check your local community gardens to see if they may have a working aquaponic system or hold workshops in aquaponics.





Aussie Suppliers and Pointers for the Bits that Aren't Free....

Uniseals

I sell Uniseals through our [Bits Out the Back Store](#). They are a much cheaper option than bulkhead/water tank fittings if you just need to run a pipe through the wall of a tank or drum. Contact details for placing orders are on the store page.

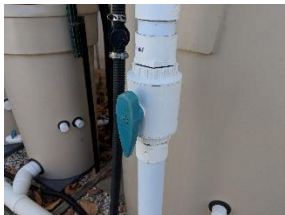
Pumps, Clay, Testing Gear, etc...

I have used [Guppy's Aquarium Products Online](#) and [Aquaholics Online](#) for air and water pumps as well as Ebay in the past. I have found the above-mentioned stores to have great service and are well priced.

[Aqua Gardening](#) Have a great range of Aquaponics gear for those folks looking for clay, testing equipment, additives, lights and grow systems. They are based in Brisbane but ship worldwide. They will also price match and do deals on bulk clay purchases.

Plumbing

The [Irrigation Store](#) is an online based site I buy my bulk PVC, barbed irrigation and bulkhead fittings from. They have a fixed delivery fee on all orders. This can make the plumbing required for a larger system a lot cheaper than if you bought from one of the big box hardware stores.



For those that are concerned about little (or big) fingers fiddling with your system, the valves with removable blue handles I use can be purchased from [Trade Link Plumbing supplies](#).

IBCs and Drums

When looking at using plastic I would recommend you go for High Density Polyethylene (HDPE, recycle #2) or Polypropylene (PP, recycle #5) which is used in most IBCs, blue barrels and food grade buckets.



It pays to find out what has been used in the IBCs and barrels. No matter what was in them before purchase, ALWAYS clean thoroughly before using them in an aquaponic system. I tend to look for containers that have had food stuffs or easy to clean out nontoxic chemicals in them.

You can find reconditioned drums, troughs and IBC tanks for sale from places like [Tilkey](#) (Brisbane QLD) and Reverse Garbage ([Brisbane QLD](#) and [Marrickville NSW](#)). Farm supply/produce stores also often hold a few different sized recycled bulk containers, drums and IBC's that can come in handy.

I've found IBC's on Gumtree as well and have picked up a few cheap ones through there. Craigslist would also be worth checking out I think. I've also seen both barrels and IBC's for sale at the weekend markets, so it pays to keep your eyes out.



Fish Feed

For fish feed I like to use Ridley feeds that I buy from [Primo Aquaculture](#). There are many other commercial feeds available, I just like this mob as they are an Aussie made product from a locally owned company.



Freight on large bags of feed can be expensive so it might be an idea to ask around Facebook groups or forums for what's available in your area. Splitting a large bag with other local aquaponicist will help bring the freight charges down too.

Just to wrap up, I'd like to thank a few folks for the help they've given me along the way.

A huge thanks to,

The folks on the BYAP forum for encouraging and inspiring me when I first started out, John Burgess for answering my questions when he could be doing something far more productive, Paul Van der Werf from Earthan Edge for helping out when I first started and also for putting up with my poorly thought out questions.

Ryan Chatterson for giving me the opportunity to attend his College of Aquaponic Engineering and Design.

I'd like to thank all you wonderful folks out there on YouTube and Facebook that have helped me out by questioning why I do things the way I do and others that have shared their experiences with me when they could see I needed a hand.

Lastly, a **HUGE THANKS** to Bianca for doing all the proof reading, editing, and being supportive of the long hours I spend working on my online activities.

Cheers to you all and have a top one.

Rob.



We also have our own supporters site called "[Farm You Own Yard](#)" for those wanting to show some extra support and receive exclusive content as a reward.

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