



All About
Fish
Feeding

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Fish Feeding

Fish food takes a large variety of forms. Different species have different feeding requirements. Before feeding any of the food discussed here, be sure to find out the needs and preferences of the species of pet fish that you keep.

Choosing the Proper Food

Fish food falls into four categories:

- Dry foods
- Live foods
- Frozen and freeze-dried foods
- Foods from the human pantry

Dry Foods

Flakes

Perhaps the quintessential fish food, flakes come in everything from completely vegetarian formulations to completely animal protein versions, and everything in between. Keep in mind that fish don't object to eating animals on principle; some of them simply thrive on the all-vegetable diet that they ate before they (or their ancestors) were domesticated. There are many formulations that are specific to various species of fish. Some fish are not top-feeders; this should be taken into account when considering flake food or the other floating foods discussed below. Flakes are frequently used as a principal food source.

Pellets, Sticks, Granules, and Tablets

Similar to flakes, these come in different formulations. There are mini-pellets for smaller fish, sinking sticks for fish that feed below the surface, and many other versions. Again, let your research regarding your own fish guide you.

Live Foods

Some fish prefer or need live food. With live foods, your primary concern is the possibility of introducing disease vectors into your aquarium. Know your suppliers, and take all precautions. Live foods include:

- Baby brine shrimp (baby and adult)
- Cyclops
- Mosquito Larvae
- Various worms: blackworms, grindal worms, white worms, earthworms, and microworms
- Vinegar eels
- Krill, rotifers, and infusoria
- Fruit flies (there are wingless varieties which make excellent fish food)
- Feeder fish

All have their place, and many of these live foods can be raised at home.



- [Dry Food for your Fish](#)
- [Frozen Food for your Fish](#)



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Frozen and Freeze-dried Foods

Many of the live foods also come in frozen and freeze-dried forms. Although not as entertaining for your fish, they are acceptable substitutes if your fish will eat them.

Foods from the human pantry

Foods that can be prepared for your fish in your kitchen include:

- hard-boiled egg yolks (an ideal food for the fry of many species)
- beef heart or heart/liver cubes – made in a blender, sometimes with gelatin, frozen in trays, and cut into small cubes. Some omnivorous and carnivorous fish think this is absolutely the best treat going.
- peas – cook them and push the flesh out of the skin
- boiled lettuce or zucchini

There are other fish-friendly foods – just keep your eyes open for further information on your fish!

Proper Feeding

When to Feed

Adult fish can often be fed once a day without ill effects. Fish fry generally need about three feedings per day.

How to Feed

Feed your fish a little bit at a time, so that their food don't disperse and pollute the tank.

How Much to Feed

One method suggested for determining how much to give your fish is to feed them early the day before, then measure an amount out and feed it to your fish in tiny portions, watching them until they stop eating greedily. This should give you a set-point for how much to feed your fish, and you can spread that amount over a day in any way that is convenient for you. Since fish are cold-blooded, their digestion rate is determined by the water temperature, so being fed once a day does not starve your fish.

Important note: This method will NOT work with goldfish, or other opportunistic feeder. They'll just keep on eating, so feed goldfish only as much as they can gobble down in about 3 minutes, once a day.



You'll need these basics before your Fish comes home. Click the items below to go to CheapPetStore.com to find the best prices for online pet supplies.

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Consequences of Improper Feeding

Overfeeding

Overfeeding will, at the very least, make your tank messy and damage the water quality. If you have overfed your fish, immediately scoop or siphon out the extra food. Don't forget that the right amount for your fish is the right amount whether they're in a tiny tank or a roomy one! Overfeeding opportunistic feeders will have more dire effects including bloat, constipation, and death. They will literally feed until bursting in some tragic cases.

Underfeeding

Generally speaking, underfeeding is not a problem. Some fish studied have been found to be healthier and live longer when slightly underfed. We're not saying "starve your fish" – hardly! Just don't let them feast endlessly.

Fish Feeding Accessories

Feeders

Most frequently used with larger aquariums or ponds, automatic fish feeders aren't vulnerable to begging. They also allow you to go away for longer periods of time without worrying about feeding the fish. Once you've determined the correct amount to feed your fish manually, setting up a feeder is a matter of calibrating the feed amount and timing.

Supplements

Fish food supplements, like human food supplements, come in various liquid and solid forms. Again, your research on your breeds will be useful here. One common usage is adding liquid supplement to individual servings of flake foods to increase their nutritive value and palatability.



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