

## What's the problem?

You might bring a Goldfish into your home with the best intentions and then find yourself in the future with a need to find somewhere else for it to live. Goldfish are an invasive species, and bring with them a variety of problems:

- can grow to be 30-35 cm (12-14 in) and weigh several pounds
- can live for 30-40 years
- are messy and should not be kept in small containers
- need large containers as adults with water filtration, oxygen circulation and regular water changes.



## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** I don't want to, or can't, take care of my Goldfish anymore. Can I just flush or release it outside?

**A:** Pet fish (alive or dead) should never be released outside or flushed down the drain. Released fish can become invasive and/or transmit diseases. Dead fish can also transmit diseases to wild fish. Live fish may survive being flushed and end up in our waterways.

**Q:** What should I do instead?

**A:** To find a new home for live fish, submit a classified ad or post on social media, offer your fish to a local school, look for a rescue, or ask pet stores if they will take it.

**Q:** Where can I find more information?

Learn more at these websites:  
[www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/goldfish](http://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/goldfish)  
[www.thamesriver.on.ca](http://www.thamesriver.on.ca)



## Protecting our waterways

The problem with Goldfish – what you should know about this invasive species

Prepared by the City of London  
Ecological Community  
Advisory Committee

[london.ca](http://london.ca)





## Why are Goldfish considered an invasive species?

Goldfish are from East Asia and do not belong in nature in North America

## Dumping Goldfish creates a bigger problem

### Dumped or flushed Goldfish harm native species by:

- growing and multiplying quickly
- eating other fish species' eggs and young
- eating plants and animals native species feed on
- stirring up mud, causing cloudy water that disturbs native fish and destroys their habitat

## Before you buy, consider alternatives to Goldfish

Other types of fish or amphibians are easier to keep as aquarium pets:



### Betta fish

- Live 2-5 years
- Remain small, low-mess
- Solitary  
(easier to keep alone)



### Freshwater tropical fish like Guppy, Danio, Tetra, Platy

- Live 1-5 years
- Most remain small in size
- Thrive in most water conditions
- May require a water heater
- Social (best kept in groups)

## Infestation: a growing problem

Goldfish infestations currently occur in London in the Thames River, Westminster Ponds, Sifton Bog, The Coves and other waterways.