

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
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





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.