

# Family Pet & Aquarium

Open 7 Days

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## Maintaining Your Goldfish Bowl

### General Information:

Generally speaking, most fish bowls do not have a filter system. Therefore, it is all the more important to have a good maintenance routine to ensure your fish have the best chance of surviving. There are a few factors to consider when determining a maintenance routine.

#### 1. Number of Fish

The least amount of fish, the better is the general rule. For example, if you have 4 fish in a bowl, the water will deteriorate twice as quick as if you have only 2 fish.

#### 2. Size of the Bowl

The bigger, the better. The more water in a bowl, the less impact fish waste will have on the fish.

#### 3. Basic Math

A combination of points 2 and 3 above means a large number of fish in a small bowl will require the utmost amount of attention and water changes will need to be regular.

Oppositely, a small number of fish in a large bowl will require the least amount of attention and water changes.

The staff at Family Pet and Aquarium can advise you on the correct number of fish for the size of the bowl.

#### 4. Water Changes

This is where it becomes difficult to give a definitive answer on frequency of water changes because, as you now know, it depends on all of the above factors. However, in most situations, if you follow these rules, you should be ok.

##### a. Once a week – Change Water

Empty out half of your bowls water down the sink. Top up the bowl with a clean jug making sure to add the WATER AGER to the water in the jug BEFORE you add the water to the bowl.

##### b. Once Every 3 Weeks – Wash Gravel

***Under no circumstance, wash your gravel with tap water. The chlorine in the tap water will kill all of the beneficial bacteria in the gravel***

There are two ways to clean the gravel.

1. Empty out half of your water into a clean bucket and put all of the fish and ornaments into this bucket. With the remaining half a bowl of water and gravel, stir up the gravel such that you are washing the gravel in the bowl water. Whilst stirring up the gravel, pour the dirty water down the sink. You should be left with a bowl and the clean gravel. If you wish to clean the bowl at this point, empty the gravel into a container and wash your bowl with tap water. Dry it with a towel. Add the gravel back into the bowl, slowly tip the bucket of water and fish back into the bowl and top up with fresh tap water as discussed above.
2. Buying a gravel filter can reduce the time taken for this task 10-fold. Gravel filters are relatively cheap and very easy to use. Be sure to ask our staff about them and if they're right for your setup.

## 5. Feeding Your Fish

You will note on some fish food containers that it says to feed fish what they will eat in 2 minutes once a day; some say 5 minutes twice a day etc. Neither option is correct.

You may also have heard that if you feed fish too much, they will die. In one respect, this is correct. Fish will not continue to eat until they “explode”, however. Once they have had their “fill”, they will stop eating. If, however, you feed too much food, the uneaten food will sink to the bottom of your bowl, will decompose and pollute the water. It is this polluted water which kills your fish. Therefore, it is important you feed the correct amount.

The way to determine the correct amount is to take a very small amount of food in your fingers place your fingers in the bowl 2 cm below the water level and release the food. The food will start sinking slowly and the fish will rush to eat it. None of the food should make it to the bottom of the bowl before it is eaten.

Once you have determined the correct amount of food, you can feed your fish 2 times a day. Uneaten food creates pollution in the water, so try not to feed them more than they are eating at each feed.

