

A FEW THINGS MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE**Quality Filtration Matters**

- A properly sized biological filter helps process fish waste and keeps water clear and healthy.

**Aeration in Hot / Cold Months**

- Fish and beneficial bacteria both need oxygen. Good circulation supports a healthy pond.

**Don't Overcrowd**

- As a general guideline for koi or similar fish, allow 1 inch of fish length per 10 gallons of water (approximately 2.5 cm per 38 liters).

**Quality food makes a difference**

- Balance food with proteins and nutrients help keep koi in the best shape. **Note: do not store in the freezer as it will lower the nutritional value.*

**Plants Help**

- Aquatic plants use excess nutrients, provide shade and protect, and create a beautiful balanced ecosystem.

**Remove Debris**

- Keep leaves and excess waste out of the pond to prevent poor water quality and overload on excess nutrients.



Visit our store for quality fish food, plants and pond supplies.

- Koi
- Butterfly Koi
- Shubunkins
- Goldfish
- Water Treatments
- Pond Supplies
- Expert Advice

**selection varies seasonally.*



POND GUYS
WATER GARDENS

We **Design. Build. Maintain.**

Water Features in Windsor-Essex
and Chatham-Kent.



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**POND
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WATER GARDENS

THE POND GUYS FIELD GUIDE | No. 03

**Welcome
to the Pond**

Bringing Home Your New Koi

A simple guide to introducing, feeding and caring for your newest pond resident.



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BEFORE YOUR FISH GOES IN

give them the right start.



1. **Keep the bag shaded**
2. **Float the sealed bag**
 - a. **15-30 minutes** so the water temperatures can gradually equalize.
3. **Give them some space**
 - a. Your new fish may hide, or take time to explore, this is normal.
4. **Don't feed right away**
 - a. Give your new fish some time to settle in (24-48 hours).

WATER BASICS

Healthy fish and clear water go hand in hand. Here are the essentials every pond owner should know.

IMPORTANT WATER PARAMETERS

pH	Ideal 6.8-8.5
KH	80-120ppm
Ammonia (NH3)	0ppm Harmful
Nitrate (NO3)	0ppm Harmful
Temperature	Affect fish behaviour

*When adding large amount of tap/hose water, always add a **dechlorinate or detoxifier** to make the water safe for fish.



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FEEDING YOUR POND FISH



WATER TEMPERATURE DECIDES

Koi are cold-water fish, and their metabolism changes with the seasons. Feed the right food at the right time for their health and for better water quality.



ABOVE 18°C OR 65°F

- Feed up to 1-3 times per day.
- Use a high-quality growth food.
- Can use colour-enhancing food.
- Can give treats: citrus, watermelon, lettuce, bugs etc.



10-18 C (50-65 F)

- Feed lightly, 1 time per day.
- Use a cold water formula.



BELOW 10°C (50°F)

- **STOP** Feeding.
- Koi cannot properly digest food in cold water. Resume feeding in the spring when temperature rise.

THE 5-MINUTE RULE

- **Feed small amounts (only what fish can eat within a few minutes).**
- **Avoid overfeeding, uneaten food adds to water quality issues.**



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WHAT HEALTHY KOI LOOK LIKE

ACTIVE | ALERT | CURIOUS



- ✓ **Swimming Normal**
- ✓ **Interested in Food**
- ✓ **Fins Open**
- ✓ **Smooth Movement**
- ✓ **Clear Eyes**
- ✓ **Bright Colour**
- ✓ **Normal Interaction**

SIGNS SOMETHING MAY BE WRONG:



Gasping at the surface

- Check oxygen and water quality.



Clamped fins or on the bottom

- Stress or poor water quality.



Flashing or rubbing against rocks

- Indicate irritation or parasites.



Not eating

- Temperature, stress, water quality.



Foamy water

- Organic waste, fish spawn, heavy rain.



For more answers, check-out:
pondguys.ca



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