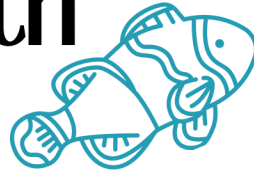
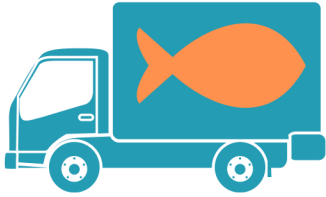


# Moving With Fish



**Moving with fish requires careful planning to ensure their safety and well-being during transport. Here are some tips and tricks for moving with fish.**

- 1. Research Local Regulations:** Check local regulations regarding the transportation of fish, especially if you're moving across state or country borders.
- 2. Preparation:** Begin preparations for moving your fish at least a few weeks in advance. This includes gathering necessary supplies and planning the logistics of the move. Call your local pet shop to see what advice they would give you for transporting your type of fish in your area.
- 3. Temporary Housing:** Set up a temporary tank for your fish in the new location before the move. This will allow the tank to cycle and stabilize before transferring your fish.
- 4. Transportation Containers:** Use sturdy, leak-proof containers for transporting your fish. Fish bags, plastic containers with lids, or coolers can work well. Ensure containers are large enough for fish to have space to move and have adequate ventilation. PVC ventilation can be used in a tote with a lid to allow ventilation, but avoid water splashing out.
- 5. Water Preparation:** Save some of the water from your old tank to transport with your fish. This will help maintain water quality and reduce stress during the move.
- 6. Acclimate Fish:** Before moving, gradually adjust fish to lower temperatures by reducing the heater temperature in the tank over several days. This will help minimize stress during transport.
- 7. Bagging Fish:** Bag fish individually or in small groups, depending on their size and compatibility. Fill bags with a mixture of tank water and fresh oxygen. Double bagging can provide extra security.
- 8. Secure Tank Equipment:** Remove and securely pack tank equipment such as filters, heaters, and decorations. Drain the tank completely, keeping a small amount of water to preserve beneficial bacteria. You also need to keep some water in to support coral life.
- 9. Transportation:** Keep fish bags upright and well-supported during transport to prevent sloshing and temperature fluctuations. Use insulated containers or coolers with heat packs or cool packs as needed to maintain stable water temperatures. If you can, plan around the weather so the temperature will be more mild.
- 10. Immediate Setup:** Upon arrival at the new location, set up the temporary tank and acclimate fish to the water temperature. Monitor water parameters closely and perform partial water changes as needed to maintain water quality.
- 11. Gradual Transition:** Once settled in the new location, gradually transition fish back to their original tank over a period of days to weeks. Monitor fish closely for signs of stress or illness during this time.



# Moving With Fish



Being proactive in your planning, you can help ensure a smooth and safe transition for your fish during the move.

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**12. Monitor Health:** Keep a close eye on fish behavior, appetite, and overall health before, during, and after the move. Contact a fish veterinarian if you notice any signs of stress or illness.

**13. Minimize Feeding:** Reduce feeding leading up to the move to minimize waste and maintain water quality. Avoid feeding fish on the day of the move.

**14. Keep Fish in the Dark:** During transport, cover fish containers or bags with a dark cloth to reduce stress and calm the fish.

**15. Monitor Water Parameters:** Test water parameters regularly during the move and upon arrival at the new location. Be prepared to perform water changes if ammonia or nitrite levels rise.

**16. Plan for Long Moves:** If you have a long-distance move, consider shipping fish separately via overnight courier services that specialize in transporting live fish. This can reduce stress and ensure a quicker arrival time. Most moving companies will not transport fish as trucks fluctuate a lot with the external heat.

**17. Emergency Kit:** Pack an emergency kit with essential fishkeeping supplies, including water conditioner, test kits, medications, and a battery-operated air pump in case of unexpected delays or emergencies.

**18. Research Local Water:** If your new location has different water parameters than your old one, research ways to adjust the water chemistry to match the needs of your fish. For example in rural areas you might have harder water with more salt content.

**19. Quarantine New Fish:** If you're adding new fish to your collection after the move, quarantine them in a separate tank to prevent introducing diseases or parasites to your established aquarium.

**20. Patience and Observation:** Be patient during the acclimation process and observe fish closely for signs of stress or illness. It may take some time for fish to adjust to their new environment.

