



# Koi Fish at a Glance

Difficulty of care: **Intermediate to advanced**

Average lifespan: **Up to 50 years with proper care**

Average adult size: **Up to 3 feet long, depending on species**

Diet: **Omnivorous**

Minimum habitat size: **29+ gallons, for juveniles;  
250 gallons per individual adult**

Water temperature: **64–75 F**

**Fun fact** ↪ In Japanese culture, koi fish represent prosperity, perseverance, ambition, and fortune. Koi fish can live 50 years or even longer!



## Pond Setup & Maintenance

- Before building your koi fish pond, enlist the help of a professional builder. While you could do it yourself, an expert can craft one to your requirements and work within your specifications.
- Even though koi fish could go into a tank, it's not a good, long-term habitat for them. Creating a big pond helps them move around and have enough space.
- Keep ponds out of direct sunlight in shaded areas and secure them to help deter animals.
- You'll need at least 10 gallons of space for every inch of each adult koi you keep. Try to keep at least five koi in a pond.
- A 25-inch koi would need a 250-gallon space. For five koi, that's at least a 1,000-gallon habitat.

## Supply Checklist

Along with an appropriately sized koi fish pond, keep all your necessary supplies on hand, including:

- Dry and frozen fish food
- Rocks and plants for décor
- Pond underlay, liner, and filter
- Pond heater/de-icer
- Water conditioner
- UV clarifier
- Water test kit and thermometer
- Net and pond skimmer
- Freshwater pond substrate
- Air pump



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## Health

Healthy koi fish should show off their bright, vibrant colors and keep clean, intact fins without debris or crust.

If your koi fish has any changes in appetite, color, unusual body bumps or spots, call your aquatic vet and schedule an in-home visit. Otherwise, make sure to schedule checkups annually or every other year.

**Fun fact** ↪ One small koi typically costs between \$8–\$50.



## Diet

Feed koi a mix of freeze-dried, frozen, flakes, and pelleted food. If using frozen food, thaw completely before feeding.

Set up an automatic feeder to dispense food at the same time daily. Don't feed more than your koi can eat in one or two minutes.

If water temperatures change, adjust feeding. For temperatures below 55 F, feed every few days. If it gets above 70 F, feed twice a day.

## Fun fact

↪ The most expensive koi ever sold cost 1.8 million dollars at the 2018 All-Japan Koi Show.

