

# Top 5 Mistakes All Fish Parents Make

## Too Many Fish

In any budding aquarists' mind's eye, they see their tank teeming with life. Fish and plants so thick that the pond or tank becomes an underwater city. But wait just a minute. Fish kept in contained systems do not have the same benefits of wild fish living in the ocean or lakes. They need room to swim with proper filtration in order to be healthy and happy.

## Disorganized Cleaning

All too often, when we get calls from clients with sick fish and ask, "when did you last clean the pond/tank," we get a 'hummmmm. Last week sometime?" Not having a clean environment is the #1 cause of fish disease. However, too thoroughly cleaning can also be bad for your fish!

## Poor Nutrition

With all the advances in fish health over the last few years, why are you still feeding your fish garbage? Know the best diet for your fish before you try to feed them! And like their fluffy counterparts, stop trying to feed them your love. A fat fish will not thank you for their increased girth and inability to swim.

## Limited Owner Education

If you think that owning a fish means dumping some poor animal in a stagnant bowl, go read a book. Do not start with Google. Go buy a real fish-keeping book and make sure to educate yourself before getting started in the fish hobby. Already bought the fish and bowl? Go buy the book and a new tank while you're at it.

## Not Recognizing Problems

If your 5-year-old comes over to you and says, "my tummy hurts," you know there is something wrong. Well, a fish can neither talk or convince you of his true motives with meaningful stares, so it's up to you to recognize the signs that mean your fish is not at his full strength. This can be behavioral or physical cues that let you know you need to get some help and treat your pet ASAP.