

Mosquitofish

Mosquitofish (*Gambusia affinis*) are freshwater fish that eat mosquito larvae and are available for free to residents throughout San Diego County!



Why Use Mosquitofish?

- Natural and easy to maintain way to prevent mosquitoes
- Adult female mosquitoes bite people and can spread diseases
- Young mosquitoes (larvae) live in standing water
- Mosquitofish can eat hundreds of mosquito larvae every day!



How Many Fish Do I Need?

- **Small sources** (fountains or troughs): 2-3 fish
- **Ponds** (surface area up to 200 sq ft): 3-5 fish
- **Larger sources**: 1 fish for every 20 square feet of surface area (up to 100 fish to start, as they will breed to fill the source)

How Do I Get Mosquitofish?

Contact us to set up your first fish delivery of up to 100 fish. If you need fewer than 5, they can be picked up free of charge at over 10 locations throughout San Diego County, including our office in Kearny Mesa.

No Fish In Natural Areas

It is unlawful to place or release mosquitofish in waters that connect or drain to natural water bodies. Do not release into streams, lakes, or rivers as they may compete with native species.

Caring For Your Fish

Introducing Your Fish:

- Keep fish in their container and place directly into the water for 15 minutes
- Once the pond and container water are the same temperature, release the fish into the water. After that, mosquitofish need little to no care
- Keep chlorine, garden insect sprays, and yard chemicals out of their water



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Living Conditions:

- Mosquitofish can live with most pond fish of about the same size
- If the mosquitofish are living with larger fish (who may eat them), they need hiding places like rocks and plants.

Feeding:

- During warm months mosquitofish usually do not need to be fed
- For small sources with fewer than 20 fish, feed regular flake food during the winter if no mosquito larvae are present

For more information, visit [SDVector.com](https://www.sdvector.com)
or contact the Vector Control Program:
(858) 694-2888 | vector@sdcounty.ca.gov



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