

Aquarium Industries

Basic Guide to
Freshwater Fish Varieties



Aquarium Industries

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Basic Guide to Freshwater Fish Varieties

Australian & New Guinea Native Code Range AA

- *Freshwater to brackish depending on species.*
- *Brackish species = Yellow water code.*
- *Freshwater species = Blue water.*
- *Temperate species = Green water code.*

Australian native fish are a large and diverse group that offer a 'local' feel to aquariums which are often dominated by fish from other continents. These fish inhabit a range of water conditions, ranging from freshwater through to brackish. Depending on species, they require a variety of temperature conditions, ranging from temperate (e.g. Tandanus Catfish) through to Tropical (e.g. Archer Fish).

Most Australian natives are easy to keep and fairly tolerant of varying water quality, with most species preferring neutral to slightly alkaline pH. They will generally accept most aquarium foods, and often benefit from frozen or live foods. It should be noted that Murray Cod, Barramundi and other large species are predatory species and will eat other fish, particularly as they grow, and therefore may not be suitable for a general community tank.

As many of these fish are wild caught, supplies are generally seasonal with shortages occurring over the winter once breeding season ends. Breeding season usually starts again in Spring, and this is when smaller sizes become available. Larger sizes are available towards the end of the Summer months.

Popular native fish include Archer Fish, Barramundi, Perch, Murray Cod, Saratogas and Tandanus Catfish.



Archer Fish



Barramundi

Australian & New Guinea Rainbow Code Range AR

- *Temperature range 22 – 28°C = Blue water code.*
- *Murray River Rainbow = Green water code.*

This group are members of the family Melanotaeniidae and are native to Australia or New Guinea. Juveniles are often poorly coloured, but adult fish develop beautiful rainbow colours as they mature. The same species can have different colour patterns depending on its location of origin and many varieties are identified by a location (e.g. Godyer River Rainbow).

Rainbowfish are very hardy and generally make excellent community fish with small and large species available for different community styles. They also feed on a variety of different foods including crumble or frozen foods.

Most popular lines include: Boesemani Rainbow, Neon Rainbow NG. Murray River Rainbow fish are ideal for temperate tanks or ponds in warmer areas.

Often wild caught, so subject to seasonal availability.



Duboulay's Rainbow Blue

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Discus Code Range CD

- **Temperature range 28 – 30°C**
- **White water code.**

Discus are a variety of Cichlid that originate from the Amazon River basin. They come in striking colours and can grow to more than 15cm in length. The colours can be solid, or striped / patterned (the patterned varieties are often called “Turquoise” or “Leopard”). The colours intensify as they grow and reach sexual maturity at about 12 to 18 months.

Although quite large, Discus tend to be quite shy and timid. Therefore they are not ideally suited for community tanks with other large or aggressive species, however they can be kept with small Tetras and Catfish. Discus are best kept in warmer tanks with slightly acid, soft water that matches their natural habitat in the Amazon River basin. They can be fed a variety of foods including crumble, frozen foods and beef heart mixes.

Most popular are Red Turquoise, Green Turquoise and Solid Blue Diamond.



Lemon Yellow Discus



Red Turquoise Discus

Lake Malawi Cichlids Code Range CM

- **Temperature range: 24 – 26°C**
- **Yellow water code.**

These cichlids originate in Lake Malawi, which is in the Great Rift Valley of Eastern Africa. In general, Rift species are aggressive in nature and not suitable for general community tanks. For this reason, they are often kept in a ‘large species’ or ‘cichlid’ community tank with other types of cichlids with similar size. This group comes in a range of beautiful colours, and it is often said that Rift Lake species are as close as you can get to the stunning colours of marine fish in freshwater species.

They also require hard alkaline water and can be fed a variety of feeds including crumble and frozen foods. It should also be noted that many species require vegetable in their diet.

The most popular varieties are Electric Yellows and Electric Blues.



Electric Yellow

Lake Tanganyika Cichlids Code Range CT

- **Temperature range:** 24 – 26°C
- **Yellow water code.**

These Cichlids originate in Lake Tanganyika, which is in the Great Rift Valley in Eastern Africa. Like their cousins from Lake Malawi, they tend to be aggressive in nature and are not suitable for general community tanks.

Tanganyikan cichlids can be fed a variety of foods including crumble and frozen foods. It should also be noted that many species such as *Tropheus* spp require vegetable in their diet.

Due to the unique water chemistry of the lake, they require more specific water parameters than cichlids from Lake Malawi. They require hard alkaline water of pH at least 7.5. Tanks must be well filtered and aerated to ensure adequate water quality and oxygen levels.

The most popular species are Princess cichlids, Frontosa and *Tropheus*.



Oscars Code Range CW

- **Temperature range:** 24 – 27°C
- **Blue water code.**

This variety of Cichlid originates in the Amazon River basin. Oscars are a beautiful, intelligent Cichlid that grow up to 40cm. While they are easy to maintain, larger specimens become very aggressive and predatory and are not suited for community tanks. They are generally voracious feeders and highly carnivorous, taking most types of food.

The most popular sizes are the juvenile 4 or 5cm long fish. The colours on these smaller fish may not be as bright as adult sized fish but they grow rapidly and can reach 25 cm plus in a few months. Selective breeding has seen a range of colours being developed. The different colours include tiger, red and albino forms. More recently long tailed or veil-tailed Oscars have also been developed.

Oscars are a seasonal line, subject to periodic shortages, most frequently during the Australian winter.



Miscellaneous Cichlids Code Range CZ

- **Temperature range:** 24 – 27°C
- **Blue water code.**

The Cichlid family is one of the largest groups of fish on the planet with over 650 species found throughout the world. Some of the most popular varieties originate from the Amazon Basin, and there are also species from areas such as the African Congo and Asia. Most cichlids do not develop their colour fully until they are adults and many are relatively dull when juvenile. The group covers a wide range of sizes and temperaments. Given their size and easy feeding requirements, many are ideally suited as aquarium fish.

Feed requirements will vary, however most Cichlids readily take a range of pellets, frozen foods and most will benefit from some vegetable matter in their diet. Remember - large species will readily eat any small fish.

The most popular varieties include Ramirez, Apistogrammas, Kribensis, Severums and Convict Cichlids.



White Convict Cichlid

Goldfish Code Range GA-GZ

- **Temperature range:** 15 – 25°C
- **Green water code.**

Goldfish are a popular fish and have a long history of being kept as ornamentals which dates back thousand's of years in China. They are our biggest selling "Coldwater" range, and a terrific beginner's fish. They can be kept in aquariums or outdoor ponds and tolerate a wide variation in temperature and water quality. They readily feed on goldfish pellets flake and frozen foods.

Goldfish are sourced from Australia and overseas with the most popular varieties being: 5cm Comets, 5cm Assorted Fantails and 5cm Shubunkins. Larger, "fancy" goldfish such as Orandas, Ryukins, Ranchus and Lionheads come from China. They are subject to seasonal availability.



Red and White Comet



Ranchu

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Miscellaneous Cold Water Code Range LA

- **Temperature range:** 15 – 25°C
- **Green water code.**

These species can be kept in indoor aquariums without the need for heaters and are suitable for beginners with a low budget. They are also suitable for outdoor ponds or tanks in most areas of Australia.



Golden Medaka

Crabs Code Range LC

- **Temperature range:** 15 – 25°C
- **Green water code.**

Crabs are invertebrates which unlike fish do not have a backbone (vertebrae). Rather they have a hard shell or exoskeleton which supports their body. This group contains a range of land and aquatic species which are fascinating creatures that add new interest and excitement to any aquarium tank. They are native to Australia and are locally bred. Another interesting fact about crabs and all crustaceans is that they grow by shedding their shell and growing a new shell – it is not uncommon to find an empty shell in the tank after they have moulted.

Land Hermit Crabs in particular are an excellent pet for young children, and as their name suggests do not live in water and are therefore relatively easy to look after when compared to other species.



Land Hermit Crab

Mussels Code Range LM

- **Temperature range:** 15 – 25°C
- **Green water code.**

These are freshwater species that can be kept in tropical or coldwater conditions. They are undemanding to water quality and will benefit from some greenwater containing microalgae.

They feed by filtering food particles out of the water and for this reason are useful in cleaning up water with high levels of suspended solids.

They are also known for their role in incubating the eggs of Bitterlings which deposit their eggs into the mussel's gills when spawning.



Freshwater Mussels

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Prawns / Shrimps Code Range LP

- **Temperature range:** 15 – 25°C
- **Green water code.**

Freshwater prawns or shrimp are another great addition to aquariums. They are excellent scavengers, eating uneaten food particles from the bottom of the tank, which helps to keep it clean.

Plenty of cover should be provided for them to hide in when they moult and are defenceless. Like other crustaceans, copper and many medications are toxic so care must be taken when treating the aquarium with any chemicals.

There are local species such as Macrobrachium and exotic species such as Crystal and Cherry Shrimp.



Cherry Shrimp

Snails Code Range LS

- **Temperature range:** 15 – 25°C
- **Green water code.**

Snails add interest and variety to the tropical aquarium, with the added benefit of helping to keep it clean! They are terrific scavengers, and will eat decomposing plant leaves and any type of fish food. They will help to keep your tanks clean and free of detritus. However, some snail species can eat aquatic plants and may themselves be eaten by certain species of fish such as Clown Loaches so ensure they are compatible with other tank mates.

Snails are sensitive to medications containing copper or insecticides. Take care to remove them from tanks before treating with any chemicals containing these substances. As they are sensitive to poor water conditions, they can be used as an indicator of poor water quality—as the water conditions deteriorate they will move to the water surface.

Popular varieties include Gold Mystery Snails and Red Ramshorn Snails.



Gold Mystery Snail

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Walking Fish Code Range LW

- **Temperature Range: 10 – 20°C**
- **Green water code.**

Mexican walking fish or Axolotls are fascinating creatures, and can make excellent pets. Axolotls are the larval stage of a salamander, and have the ability to undergo metamorphosis (similar to a tadpole changing into a frog) and change to an air breathing, land dwelling salamander, but this very seldom occurs.

Axolotls can be challenging to feed with earthworms the most suitable food. Specific pellets are also available and lean mince or beef heart can also be fed. Feeding every second day is usually sufficient. Axolotls have a large wide mouth, well adapted for preying on fish, and therefore fish should not be kept in the same aquarium.

Axolotls are best housed in conditions similar to goldfish, and they prefer a cool environment with a tolerated range of between 10 and 20°C and an ideal temperature of 12 – 18°C.

Walking fish are a popular first pet, that come in a range of colours including Gold, Black, Olive and White.



Walking Fish Olive



Walking Fish Gold

Yabbies Code Range LY

- **Temperature Range: 10 – 20°C**
- **Green water code.**

Yabbies originate from Australia and make an interesting addition to the home aquarium. They are suited to tropical or coldwater tanks and can be kept with fish, (providing the fish are active and healthy). Yabbies are capable of eating aquatic plants and are therefore not recommended for display or plant tanks. Provide shelter with rocks or short pieces of PVC pipe, as yabbies can become quite territorial if overcrowded. For this reason it is not recommended that more than one yabby be housed in small aquariums or bowls. Good aeration and filtration are important for their wellbeing. In nature yabbies are true scavengers, in the aquarium they will eat anything fish eat. Any sinking food is fine.

If for any reason yabbies lose claws or limbs these will be re-grown over the next few moults.

Yabbies are available in normal wild type colours or blue forms.



Blue Claw Yabby

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Angelfish Code Range TA = normal fins TB = sp. veil tails, TC = species

- **Temperature range: 24 – 28°C**
- **White water code.**

One of the most popular cichlid species kept in the hobby, angels are a majestic fish with a calm temperament. These fish originate from the Amazon basin and prefer slightly acid, soft water. Best kept in pairs or a small school and are a great addition to a community tank. However, large specimens can become territorial, particularly when wanting to spawn. They feed on most aquarium diets as well as frozen or live foods.

Most popular lines are 3.5cm and 4.5cm Assorted Angels.



Barbs Code Range TD

- **Temperature range: 24 – 28°C**
- **Blue water code.**

Barbs are a hardy, active species best kept in small schools. A great addition to any tropical tank. Some species will “nip” the tails of other fish if not kept in schools.

No special requirements for water quality and they will feed readily on a variety of aquarium foods.

Most popular: Rosy Barbs (2 and 3cm), Tiger Barb (all sizes), 4cm Moss Green Tiger Barb.



Catfish / Corydoras

Code Range TE = Corydoras TF = other species

- **Temperature range:** 22 – 26°C
- **Blue water code.**

Every tropical tank needs a catfish! They help keep the tank clean by eating algae and, as they are bottom feeders, will also eat any uneaten food particles. They originate from all around the world, with many of the more popular species coming from South America. Catfish are generally tolerant of a wide variety of water quality conditions and are easy to feed with sinking type feeds, but also benefit from feeding with partially boiled vegetables like pumpkin and zucchini.

Smaller species such as Sucking Catfish, Corydoras and Bristlenose are ideal in community tanks. However, some of the larger species may be predatory, particularly at night and may not be suited to community tanks with small types of fish. Many of the smaller species such as Corydoras, are schooling by nature and are best kept in groups of 5 or more. They also look fantastic swimming around an aquarium in a group!

Most popular: Sucking catfish, Bronze catfish, Peppered catfish, Albino catfish.



Sucking catfish



Peppered catfish

Danios Code Range TG

- **Temperature range:** 22 – 26°C
- **Blue water code.**

Another popular tropical that will add life and variety to any tropical tank. Best kept in small schools. Very active as a rule. Most popular: Assorted Danios, Zebra Danios.



Jaguar Danio

Basic Guide to Freshwater Fish Varieties

Fighters (Betta) Code Range TH

- *Temperature range: 22 – 26°C*
- *Blue water code.*

Hugely popular pet with a male best kept on its own. Males can fight each other to the death if put together, although fish bred for western markets with large brightly coloured fins are much less aggressive than their wild cousins!. Very hardy, they can be kept in small tanks. They come in a range of colours including Red, Blue, Green, Orange. Most popular: Assorted, Red and Blue. Range of fin lengths available – those with extra long fins are called “Crown”.



Red Male Fighter

Gouramis Code Range TI

- *Temperature range: 22 – 26°C*
- *Blue water code.*

These fish belong to the Anabantid family and share the common trait that they can breathe oxygen out of the air. They do this through a special organ called the Labyrinth Organ which is a modified gill which sits in a cavity above the gills. The fish is able to gulp air from the water surface which passes into the labyrinth organ where oxygen is taken out – by using this they are able to survive in small, muddy water-holes and it is often said that these species can live in elephant footprints! However, both males and females can be kept in community tropical tanks with other fish varieties but always remember - only one male per tank!

The species of gouramis found in this group generally make

excellent community fish with similar sized fish and are not demanding as to water quality.

Most popular are some of the Dwarf varieties (Male). The regular varieties such as Silver, Blue and Opaline are also popular and can grow to more than 9cm.



Dwarf Coral Blue Gourami

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Guppies Code Range TJ=Male, Code Range TK=Female

- **Temperature range: 20 – 26°C**
- **Yellow water code.**

Guppies are probably the most popular livebearer among both aquarium owners and advanced breeders. The once humble, dull-coloured guppy has become a sought after fish for hobbyists who are interested in genetic processes, resulting in many varieties of spectacular colourations and fin shape. Their ease of breeding means that it is the first species many hobbyists begin to breed. However, because of intense breeding, fancier guppies can be harder to maintain and care should be taken with water conditions as they need quite specific water conditions (refer to care sheets).

They feed readily on flake, crumbles etc – NB. They prefer to eat off the water surface so floating foods are preferred.

Most popular: Assorted males.



Killifish Code Range TL

- **Temperature range: 20 – 26°C**
- **Blue water code.**

There are many species of Killifish available with the most common being *Aphyosemion* sp - Killifish species *Aplocheilus* sp., *Epiplatys* sp, *Pseudepiplaty* sp - Panchax species. They are generally small fish and many species have very brightly coloured males.

Killifish readily feed on live foods like daphnia, frozen food and aquarium feeds. They are good community fish but due to their size are best kept with smaller species. They prefer a planted tank and softer water conditions on the acidic side.

Popular species include Gold or Blue.





Basic Guide to Freshwater Fish Varieties

Loaches and Eels Code Range TM

- **Temperature range:** 24 – 28°C
- **Blue water code.**

Loaches and Eels are a popular group with unusual shapes and colour. They add variety and movement to community tanks and most are bottom-dwelling omnivorous fish that can help keep tanks clean. Do not keep them with aggressive fish as they will stress this sociable active fish. Loaches are striking scaleless fish which make an ideal addition to community tanks. As they are bottom-feeders, ensure that they get their share at feeding time, and there are various sinking wafer/ tablet type foods that can be used. Handle Clown Loach with care, as they have a movable spine in the groove below the eye which, while not venomous, can inflict a painful wound. Clown Loach are also very good at controlling snail populations in an aquarium. Many of these species come from the fast moving waters of rivers and streams, so it is best to provide them a tank with lots of clear, well filtered fast moving water. They should be given plenty of hiding places and should be kept in a large aquarium as they grow fairly quickly when given the right conditions.

Most popular: 5cm Clown Loach.



Clown Loach

Mollies Code Range TN= Molly, TO= Lyretail Molly, TP= Sailfin Molly

- **Temperature range:** 22 – 26°C
- **Yellow water code.**

Mollies are livebearers that are a peaceful species and come in a range of colours and fin shapes. The Molly will accept any aquarium food, but in order to maintain top condition it does require some vegetable matter. They will also eat algae which they will find for themselves by constantly grazing on plants or other surfaces in the aquarium. The Molly is extremely peaceful, and makes an ideal community fish.

They come in a variety of colours and shapes, the Balloon Molly is so named because they have a shorter, deeper body than normal Mollies.

The Molly prefers slightly alkaline, fairly hard water and a suitable use Livebearer Water Conditioner is recommended.

Most popular: Assorted.



Gold Molly

Basic Guide to Freshwater Fish Varieties

Platys Code Range TQ=Normal, TR= Hi-Fin

- **Temperature range: 22 – 26°C**
- **Yellow water code.**

Another colourful, active livebearer that comes in a large variety of colours and shapes. Platys are one of the best community tank species and will mix well with other community species. They prefer slightly alkaline water, but are generally able to tolerate a wide range of water qualities and considered quite hardy.

Although not a schooling fish they benefit by being kept with a large number of their own kind and also benefit from having a planted aquarium. Platys will eat most aquarium fish food and also algae growing within the aquarium. Most popular: Assorted.



Sunset Platy

Rasboras Code Range TS

- **Temperature range: 22 – 26°C**
- **Blue water code.**

Rasbora's are small schooling fish which swim in the middle and top parts of the aquarium. Many species prefer soft slightly acidic water, and some of the more delicate species are not well suited to the aquarium.

Rasbora's are omnivorous and not demanding with their food, readily eating most types of aquarium and frozen foods.

Most are ideal community species and display best when kept in schools of six or more and kept in a well planted aquarium, with some floating plants on the surface and open swimming areas. Most popular Harlequin Rasbora.



Harlequin Rasbora

Sharks Code Range TT

- **Temperature range: 22 – 26°C**
- **Blue water code.**

These aren't real sharks, they are actually related to goldfish! These beautiful fish have an interesting shark-like appearance, and graceful swimming habits. They are suitable for community tanks and while still small, they will ignore smaller species such as Tetras. However, as they grow they can become more aggressive and may try to eat them. Silver Sharks like to jump, so ensure that their tank has a cover! They are omnivorous and are not fussy eaters, taking a variety of foods like live, fresh,

frozen fish foods, beef heart and blood worms. They tolerate a wide range of water qualities. Most popular: 5cm Silver, 5cm Rainbow.



Silver Shark

Basic Guide to Freshwater Fish Varieties

Swordtails Code Range TU= Normal, TV=Hi-Fin & Lyretail

- **Temperature range: 22 – 26°C**
- **Yellow water code.**

Swordtails are another great community fish that are active and attractive. They have highly developed fins and come in spectacular colours. They are livebearers and are close relatives of Platys.

Swordtails are generally suitable for keeping in community tanks with other medium sized fish. It should be noted that when they are fully grown they can be very active and may out-compete some smaller or less active species for food. Some adult Swordtails can be aggressive and develop the habit of fin nipping. Mature male swordtails are easily identified by the long sword-like extension to their tail.

They prefer hard, alkaline water and readily feed on a variety of aquarium foods and frozen foods. Most popular: Assorted.



Mickey Mouse Red Swordtail

Tetras Code Range TW

- **Temperature range: 22 – 26°C**
- **White water code.**

Tetras are among the most popular tropical fish, especially Neon Tetras. Most species are schooling community fish that look best displayed in groups of 6 or more fish. Most range in size from 2 – 12cm. The aquarium conditions required by these fish depend on their location of origin and cannot be generically listed. However, most Tetras purchased at aquarium shops are of South American origin and will do well in water that is soft and slightly acid. Most Tetras are omnivorous and will readily take most types of aquarium foods used in the hobby, but ensure the food particles are small as most species have very small mouths.

Many species tend to have a silver coloured background to their body over which splashes of iridescent colours occur. There are a huge variety of colours such as the iridescent red and blues of Neon and Cardinal Tetras.

Today there are many species of commercially farmed Tetras that have different colour morphs (generally albino or golden forms), fins (long or short finned varieties), or balloon.

Every tropical tank needs tetras! Most popular: Neon, Cardinal, Black Widow, Rummy Nose.



Neon tetras



Black Widow

Basic Guide to Freshwater Fish Varieties

Tropical Miscellaneous Code Range TZ

- **Temperature range: 22 – 26°C**
- **Blue water code.**

Species in this group are sourced from Tropical regions throughout the world, for this reason they are best kept in heated aquariums. This group covers a large range of species and consists of many weird and wonderful species such as Elephant Nose and Black Ghost Knife Fish.

Due to the wide range of species it is hard to make generalisations as to the keeping conditions and diet. However, most species are suited to a temperature of 22 – 26° C, a pH of 6.5 – 7.0 and general hardness of 50 – 100ppm. Many larger species will be aggressive or predatory and may not be suited for community tanks. The majority of the smaller species

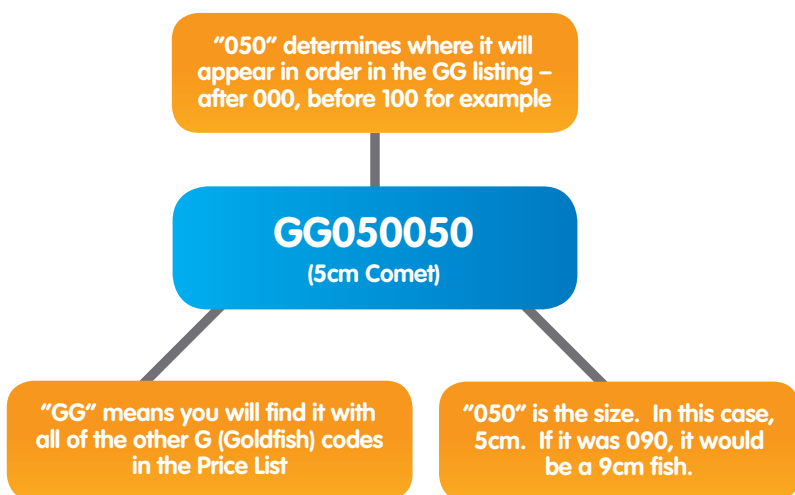
are well suited to community tanks, but for more specific information, consult species care sheets for specific information.



Paradise Fish

Aquarium Industries Guide to Product Codes

- The Price List and OnLine Ordering are broken into sections depending on species.
- Within each species, we list the varieties in alpha-numeric order.
- Each product code is 8 characters long.
- The first 2 characters are letters of the alphabet, and they relate to where you will find the product in the PL.
 - e.g. AA = Australian Native, CM = Cichlid from Lake Malawi, CT = Cichlid from Lake Tanganyika, GA to GZ = All the different varieties of Goldfish etc
- The next 6 characters are numbers.
 - The first three of these relate to individual varieties.
 - The last 3 digits is the size in mm.
 - So if a code ends in 050 it is 5cm long. If it ends in 200 it is 20cm long.



When your fish arrive

Your fish are packed in coloured water which helps you to identify the kind of water they belong in. It's not a medication, and is designed to help you easily identify fish which require different types of water. You will find the code on the label on your fish bag (it's in the top right hand corner) and it is also in the "Bin Location" column on your Delivery slip. Below you will find details of the water parameters we ship in.

Code on Delivery slip and Bag Label	Fish Type	pH	General Hardness (GH) in ppm
G	Goldfish and other cold Water	7.0 – 7.5	150
B (Blue water in bag)	Miscellaneous tropical	7.0	100 - 150
W	Tetras and Discus	6.5 – 7.0	50 - 100
Y (Yellow water in bag)	Livebearers, Brackish and Rift Lake Cichlids	7.0 – 7.5	250 - 300
Code on Delivery slip and Bag Label	Fish Type	pH	Specific Gravity
M	Marine	8.0 – 8.5	1.020