

# Don't dump aquarium contents

Our  
precious  
environment  
needs your  
help!



Queensland  
Government

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Although some exotic fish, snails and plants can be kept in private aquariums, it is illegal to release them into the native environment because of the serious negative impacts they can have on the environment.

The introduction of exotic species into Queensland's natural waterways can affect native aquatic plants and animals through direct competition for food and space, predation, changes to their habitat and the introduction of exotic diseases and parasites.

Exotic fish, snails and plants have already established in Queensland. Once established, removal is almost impossible. Prevention of further populations in the wild is the best course of action.



# Exotic fish and

Examples of exotic fish and aquarium plants include:



Gold fish



Platy



Guppy

These fish have established in several areas in Queensland and may compete with native species.



Swordtail

Swordtail have established in waterways in Queensland including rainforest streams in North Queensland.

# aquarium plants



## Gambusia

Introduced to eastern Australia in 1929 as a mosquito control agent, gambusia are widely established in Queensland and their presence results in the reduction and possible disappearance of native fish species.



## Spike top apple snail

This common aquarium snail has recently established in several areas in Queensland. In other countries, this invasive snail has displaced native snails.



## Salvinia

Salvinia became established in Queensland mainly because of people emptying aquariums and ponds into waterways. Salvinia forms thick mats that can completely cover water storage areas in a short time. It can endanger children and livestock who can become entangled in heavy infestations.

# Dos and Don'ts



## Dos

Give unwanted fish and snails to your friends, the local aquarium society or a dealer.

Euthanase fish and snails humanely and bury them in your backyard.

When you remove plants from an aquarium, dry them and then put them in a bag in the wheelie bin or burn them.

Find out what exotic fish, snails and weeds look like.

Find out which fish are native to your local area and use them for stocking home/private dams, ponds and keeping in aquariums.

Report anyone you believe is dumping aquarium contents by calling 13 25 23.



## Don'ts

Don't empty fish or tank contents into creeks, waterways, drains or dams.

Don't use aquarium fish or snails—alive or dead—as bait.



## More information

For more information contact your local government or call Biosecurity Queensland on **13 25 23** or visit [biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://biosecurity.qld.gov.au)

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