

Koi Quarantine

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Quarantine is a tool you can use to better manage the health of your Koi, both new and old. Done properly, quarantine can help ensure the continued good health of your new Koi arrivals as well as protect the health of your existing Koi. A Koi quarantine facility serves several purposes: provides a means for easy observation of new Koi; provides a convenient place for applying needed treatment to new Koi; allows new Koi ideal circumstances for adjusting to new water conditions; provides new Koi with an ideal environment for healing and recovering from the stress of transport; and it provides a controlled introduction of new and old Koi.

To be effective, a quarantine facility needs to have ideal conditions. A quarantine facility with poor conditions is of more harm than help. Poor conditions can arise from: tank too small for Koi, over stocking, inadequate filtration, or un-seasoned biofilter. For short term use you can maintain good water quality in your quarantine by performing water changes and using an ammonia neutralizer such as AmQuel. For longer term its best to have a fully functional mechanical and biological filter. The water in your quarantine needs to be clean, pure, and warm.

If your new arrivals show any signs of disease keeping them in quarantine will facilitate easy treatment and prevent spread of disease. Keep the water warm (70°F to 75°F) to promote rapid healing. Be sure to diagnose problems thoroughly before treating with chemicals or medication.. Indiscriminate treatment can cause more stress and further degrade your Koi's health.

Once your new arrivals look healthy, you can introduce them to the rest of your Koi. If you're concerned that new Koi may be carriers of a disease, you can introduce a few of your existing Koi into the quarantine tank. Mixing a few old Koi with the new will give you an opportunity to see if one group is a carrier of something harmful to the other group.