

The aquatics industry has become increasingly popular and since polyethene bags came into existence the hobby has grown from strength to strength. As the hobby grows so does our knowledge of fishkeeping, and with it the importance to monitor water quality.

So what are the best types of fish to keep? Bearing in mind species of fish can be as different to each other as a mouse is to an elephant.

### Coldwater Fish versus Tropical Fish

The term Coldwater fish refers to fish species that thrive in colder temperatures than the average Tropical Fish. Perfect examples of fish families that thrive in these environments are the [Koi](#) and the [Goldfish](#). These families of fish generally have a longer life span, grow much slower and are considered easier to keep.

Tropical fish are more numerous in varying types as breeds of this fish inhabit environments all over the world, and have adapted to that range from both freshwater, saltwater and coral fish.

Image result for koi on white background

### Freshwater Tropical Fish

Freshwater fish are those that do not live in the ocean but their natural habitats can be very diverse. One example would be the South American Cichlids that originate from The Amazon are soft acidic loving fish as are many [Tetras](#) and [Catfishes](#). Whereas [Cichlids](#) originally from Central Africa, predominantly from the [African Great Lakes](#) such as Lake Malawi, Lake Victoria and Lake Tanganyika, come from hard and more alkaline water.

### Saltwater/Marine and Coral Fish

The coral reefs have a multitude of diverse marine life, more and more tank bred marine fish are now appearing in our aquatic stores but still the majority of marine fish and invertebrates are taken from the wild. Marine life is generally more sensitive to the water parameters because marine aquariums are maintained at a high pH.

Examples of coral reef tropical fish are [Damsel fish](#) and the [Yellow Tang](#).

The corals and anemones and other photosynthesizing creatures will also depend on correct and adequate lighting.

### Brackish Aquarium Fish

The rarer of the three, the brackish aquarium fish are those that inhabit aquariums where the water is 'brackish' or 'semi-salty'. Essentially the fish that you would typically see within a brackish aquarium are those that naturally inhabit waterways, such as estuaries and mangroves, where freshwater would meet saltwater. A good example would be where [The Amazon](#) river or [Rio de la Plata](#) meets the Atlantic sea, or [Lake Monroe](#) that meets [St Johns River](#) in Florida, USA.

The range of salinity, or SG (special gravity), within a brackish aquarium can vary from a scale to near freshwater to near saltwater. Although ideal fish for these types of aquariums are few and far between it is wise to remember that the fish evolved for these environments to withstand frequent salinity and water parameter changes making them tough fish. More information regarding salinity of an aquarium can be found [here](#).

Prime examples of fish for brackish aquariums are the [Wrestling halfbeak](#), the [Dragon Goby/Violet Goby](#) and the for the more adventurous aquarist; the [Atlantic Stingray](#).

Image result for atlantic stingray white background

What fish are ideal for a novice aquarist?

We would recommend starting with a freshwater community tank with species such as [Livebearers](#), most [Barbs](#), Tetras and [Rainbowfish](#). These fish, being coined as 'hardy fish' are adaptable to changes in pH levels, ammonia and temperature. This itself provides a stress-free learning curve for any novice aquarist and provides the basis for further learning down the road.

However there are no rules to which fish to keep. Whether it is a community tank, an aquascape tabletop aquarium or a large marine aquarium please remember to conduct a lot of research before deciding on your aquarium.

the seneye range



The image displays three boxes of Seneye aquarium starter systems. From left to right, they are labeled 'HOME', 'POND', and 'REEF'. Each box features a different aquatic theme: blue fish for HOME, a koi fish for POND, and orange and white clownfish for REEF. The boxes are white with blue and orange accents. Each box includes a list of features under the heading 'STARTING FISH FROM' and a 'SAFE & HEALTHY' logo. The text on the boxes is partially legible and includes terms like 'aquarium start system' and 'fish food meter'. A blue banner at the top left of the image contains the text 'the seneye range'. To the right of the boxes, the text 'Find out more' is written in a red, cursive font, followed by a black circular arrow icon pointing to the right.

Find out more 