

Tiger Barb Care: Quick Start Guide

All the answers to your questions in an easy to use guide.



How big do Tiger Barbs get?

They grow to be about 2.5 inches (6.3 cm) long. [More...](#)

How long will a Tiger Barb live? (Lifespan)

Well cared for Tiger Barbs can live 5 to 10. [More...](#)

Are Tiger Barbs easy or difficult to care for?

Easy. They do need to be in a school of at least 10 other barbs. They are very active and usually not shy if they are in a large school. They can be fin nippers. I have found you can't keep snails with barbs as they view snails as a snack.

Are Tiger Barbs peaceful or aggressive?

Peaceful but they are fin nippers and they do pick on each other.

What size aquarium do Tiger Barbs require?

My recommendations for a nicely understocked aquarium is 10 to 15 Tiger Barbs in a 30 to 40 gallon aquarium. This setup could include a few community fish. [More...](#)

How many Tiger Barbs can I put in my aquarium?

10 in a 30 gallon tank, 15 to 20 in a 40 gallon aquarium and 20 to 30 in a 55 gallon tank. This will create an attractive lightly stocked aquarium.

What water conditions do Tiger Barbs need?

1. Tiger Barbs originate in a tropical area so they need a tank of about 78 degrees F. (about 25 degrees C.)
2. They are not picky about pH or water hardness. Mine are in a tap water tank with a hardness of 7.14. So tap water with a good quality aquarium water conditioner should work fine.
3. A tank with a few hiding spots would be a plus as they are a bit skittish.

What other fish can I keep with my Tiger Barbs?

Just about any fish that doesn't have long fins or that is slow mover (like angelfish). Examples: mollies, other tetras, plecos, chinese algae eaters, etc.

What should I feed my Tiger Barbs? How much? How often?

I usually feed my Tigers live processed or live frozen foods. My barbs are a bit picky and often turn up the noses at flake or other processed fish foods.

When there is "live" foods in the water they eat very quickly so you can't judge how much to feed by how long this food is in the water. A better way is to guess as to how much food their stomachs can hold.

In regards to how often, I am going to go with a scientific study on goldfish I found said that the fastest growth of juvenile Goldfish was by feeding them twice per day, vs more or less feedings. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/279236515_Influence_of_Feeding_Frequency_on_Growth_performance_and_Body_Indices_of_Goldfish_Ca

How much do Tiger Barbs cost?

If you buy a tiger barb from a **big box pet store you will pay about \$3.50 each**. If you are buying a "starter school" of 10 you will want to buy about 15 because about 30% of all big box store fish die in the first couple of weeks.

If you buy from a **local fish store** you will probably pay **\$7 to \$9 each. Most will live**.

If you buy from **eBay** you will spend \$10 to \$20 each when you include shipping.

My suggestion is to buy your barbs from the local fish store. They will more likely be healthier and less likely to make your other community fish ill.

Are Tiger Barbs easy or difficult to breed?

Medium. Male barbs will continue to fight in the breeding tank so it is necessary to have only one male to two females in a large breeding basket or an aquarium with marbles in the bottom.

Do Tiger Barbs need a [planted aquarium?](#)

No, they don't care what's in the tank. It is up to you. I've keep them in both planted and unplanted aquariums.