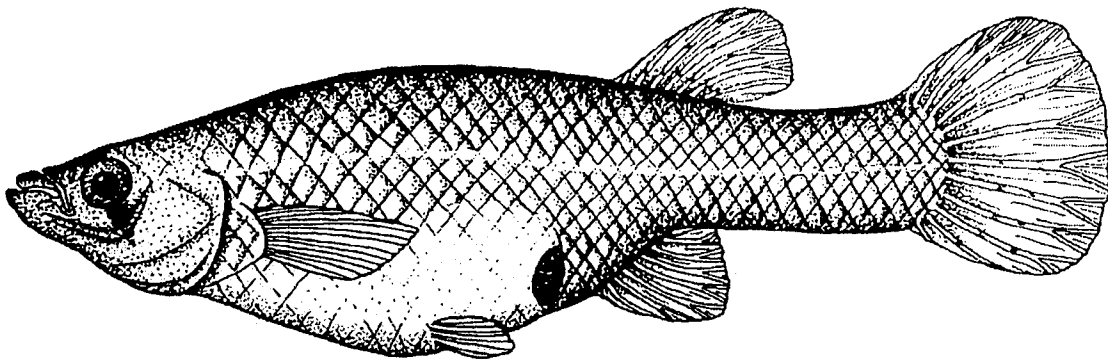




Santa Clara County Vector Control District  
Department of Environmental Health  
976 Lenzen Ave., San Jose, CA 95126  
(408) 792-5010 or (800) 675-1155  
[www.sccvector.org](http://www.sccvector.org)

## CHLORAMINES AND MOSQUITO FISH

Most of the tap water in Santa Clara County is now being treated with chloramines (not chlorine) which are **toxic to fish**, shellfish, reptiles and amphibians. Chloramines are chemicals which contain chlorine and ammonia, and are being added to tap water to disinfect it. If you use well water to fill your ponds or troughs, chloramines are not an issue.



### What can you do to protect your fish?

Water used for fish must be treated in a manner appropriate to remove both the chlorine and ammonia components of the chloramines. In order to do this you must use conditioning chemicals designed to remove chloramines (such as Amquel®) available at pet stores, fish supply stores, and some variety stores.

### Treatments which are NOT effective:

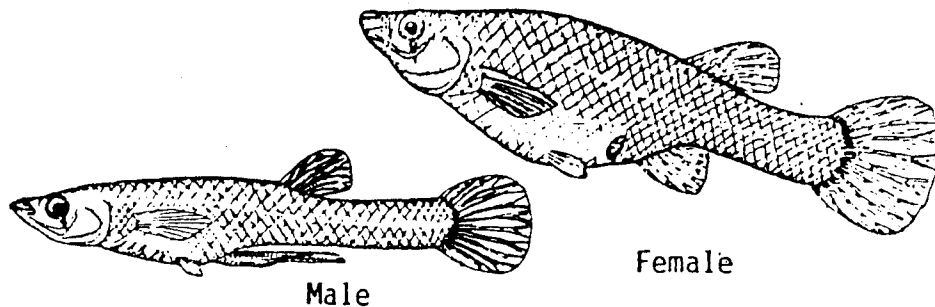
- letting the untreated water stand outside for a day or two
- boiling the water first
- using chemicals that remove only chlorine

To be completely safe, always pretreat your water before adding it to your trough no matter how little you add. Treatment and test kits are available at most pet and fish supply stores. Chloramine residuals in treated water should be below 0.1 mg per liter.

## MOSQUITOFISH

### SANTA CLARA COUNTY VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

976 LENZEN AVE.  
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408-792-5010/1-800-675-1155  
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MOSQUITOFISH  
(Gambusia affinis)

Mosquitofish play a very important role in mosquito control in Santa Clara County. Because of their great appetite for mosquito larvae (wigglers), mosquitofish are very effective in preventing the production of mosquitoes from freshwater ponds and streams. Upon request, the Vector Control District will stock ponds with mosquitofish for any resident of Santa Clara County.

Fish are normally available only during the summer months.

#### Mosquitofish Facts:

Mature females are about 2 to 2 1/2 inches long and the males are about 1 to 1 1/2 inches long.

Mosquitofish are live bearing and produce 3 or 4 broods of young per season. The brood size varies from a dozen or so to over 100.

It is usually unnecessary to feed the fish especially if the pond contains some aquatic vegetation.

Fish may not survive extremely cold winters in shallow ponds.

If large numbers of mosquito larvae (wigglers) are present, the pond should be cleaned before stocking with fish.

#### Pond Design and Maintenance:

Ponds should be designed so that run-off waters do not enter the pond. This will prevent contamination of the pond with silt, fertilizers and pesticides which may be toxic to fish or cause excessive algae growth.

Locate the pond so that it will receive some sunlight. Fish will not thrive in densely shaded areas.

Ponds should be at least 6 inches deep, and should contain a few rocks and water plants so the fish can hide from predators (cats, racoons, etc.).

Ponds should be cleaned routinely to remove leaves and debris.