

# HOW TO SAFELY MEDICATE FISH OUTSIDE YOUR POND OR TANK



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It is Best to Medicate New or Sick Fish in a separate quarantine bucket rather than medicating directly in your fish tank or pond.

- Medicating new or sick fish 21 days in a separate 5-gallon bucket helps to prevent the medication from clogging your tank or pond filters which could also disrupt the bacteria balance in your system.



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### MY 21-DAY FISH MEDICATION PROTOCOL:

1. **Set the water temperature in your bucket to match the temperature of your aquarium or pond prior to moving the fish to your medication bucket.** This will eliminate fish shock due to temperature changes. Once your fish are settled in the bucket, you can slowly bring the temperatures up to 68°F to provide the necessary heat for proper treatment.
2. **Never medicate more than 3 fish at a time in a 5-gallon bucket.** Select three fish per bucket and start by adding fresh water (not tank water) to your bucket setup, along with a **small sponge filter** and a **small aquarium heater** set to 68°F to provide the necessary heat, aeration and filtration needed during your 21-day medication process.
3. **Change the 5 Gallon Bucket Water every other day** by transferring the fish to a new bucket setup each time to ensure the highest quality of water. Remember to always match water temperature between the old and new buckets to prevent fish shock due to rapid water temperature fluctuation.
4. **Add 2.5ml of API's AmmoLock every 48 hours** with each bucket water change to ensure ammonia is kept in check during medication.
5. **Add 2.5ml of API's Stress Coat every 48 hours** with each bucket water change to heal any damage to fins and scales due to transport issues or disease from the tank they were taken from.
6. **Add 2.5ml of Seachem's Stability daily** to help establish your sponge filter with good bacteria levels.
7. **Add 2.5ml of Seachem's ParaGuard daily** to medicate your fish and eliminate parasites.
8. **After 21-days of medication, you can return your fish to your tank or pond.** Don't forget to match to adjust the water temperature in your bucket to match the temperature in your pond prior to moving your fish back into your pond or tank. If possible, to facilitate a safe return to the tank and help to eliminate transfer damage to fins and scales, I suggest you use a large cup rather than a net to move your fish back and forth from your tank or pond to your medication bucket.