

Blue Crayfish

Procambarus alleni



CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

These blue crayfish are found in Florida and are a very important species to the freshwater marsh systems of southern Florida. They are the only native species of crayfish in the everglades. It is the lack of a gene that causes them to be blue. Also known as the Electric Blue Crayfish, Everglade Crayfish or Florida Crayfish

Is a crayfish the right choice for your aquarium?



Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Check "Yes" or "No" after reading the following statements:

- I have room for an appropriate size aquarium.
- The crayfish I have chosen would be compatible with my other aquarium inhabitants.
- I can commit to providing proper care for this crayfish.
- A mature person will provide responsible and primary care for this crayfish

If you answered "Yes" to these statements, a crayfish may be the right choice for you! Continue reading about how to care for a crayfish and consult with a PETCO associate to learn more. PETCO is committed to responsible aquarium care.

Average Size 2-7 inches long

Life Span Up to 5 years with proper care

Diet Pelleted fish food that settles to the bottom should be provided. Crayfish are omnivorous scavengers and will eat almost anything they can grab with their claws from small fish, to worms, to vegetation.

Feeding Feed as much fish food as needed for other fish in the tank and to allow some to remain on the bottom

Housing Crayfish should be kept in an appropriate size aquarium for their size with an escape proof lid and with proper aeration and filtration.

Crayfish like to burrow and hide, provide a cave or hiding rock

Water temperature should range from 65° F. to 75° F.

Use of an under gravel filter is not recommended as crayfish will burrow

You may consider place a layer of sand under a layer of pebbles to allow for burrowing

Crayfish can live out of the water for a short time as long as their gills are kept wet.

Stable water quality, water temperature, and pH levels are critical to the health of this invertebrate. If you are unsure of your water quality or pH levels, PETCO provides free water testing.

Recommended Supplies

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate size aquarium | <input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer | <input type="checkbox"/> Net |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water conditioner | <input type="checkbox"/> Décor | <input type="checkbox"/> Filter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water test kit | <input type="checkbox"/> Substrate | <input type="checkbox"/> Air pump |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate commercial pellet fish food | | <input type="checkbox"/> Airstone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Book about crayfish or aquariums | | <input type="checkbox"/> Hiding place |

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Characteristics Crayfish love to explore- ensure their tank is escape proof.
Love to climb on and in plants.

Habitat Maintenance Check filter, water temperature and other equipment daily
Check water quality at least once a week
Change 10–25% of the total volume of de chlorinated water every two to four weeks, or as needed
When cleaning your tank, put your crayfish in a small container with water just over it's head. Do not place it in a bucket of water that is full.

Compatibility Crayfish are opportunistic eaters and will eat small fish. However large fish such as an Oscar will prey on crayfish.
Crayfish are vulnerable to small fish when they molt their protective shell.
Do not house with bottom dwellers.
Multiple crayfish can live in the same tank as long as adequate hide places are provided. A crayfish must have a place to hide when it sheds its exoskeleton or cannibalism from other crayfish can be a problem.

Signs of a Healthy Lobster

- Healthy appetite
- Active movements

Common Health Issues Little is known about diseases that affect invertebrates; as long as environmental conditions and food supplies are adequate, invertebrates are fairly resistant to disease

Signs of Illness

- Loss of movement
- Loss of appetite

If you notice any of these signs, test water quality and improve as necessary

Preventing Common Health Issues Avoid crowded conditions
Maintain good water quality with regular water changes and adequate filtration

Sources *Aquariums for Dummies* by Maddy Hargrove and Mic Hargrove
The Simple Guide to Freshwater Aquariums by David E. Boruchowitz

Note: The information on this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please refer to the above sources or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.