

BAGGING FISH FOR AUCTION

By Kevin Sorensen

With a few basic steps to follow the method is simple and safe and you will be able to dramatically decrease the risk to your fish when bagging them for sale.

The two main killers of fish will be the water they are in turning toxic and other fish in the same bags.

1. **WATER** .Start with good quality water in the tanks and healthy fish that are being bagged
2. Doing a ¼ water change 3 days before bagging.
3. Do not feed fish for 2 days before bagging, larger fish or catfish should not be fed for up to a week and any wood should be removed from catfish tanks This will reduce the amount of waste produced by the fish while in the bags and will not harm fish in good health and condition.
4. Remove the water needed from the tank you will be using to actually bag the fish in before you start to catch fish and possibly stir up unwanted wastes
5. Use sufficient water to cover the fish comfortably, I use about 2/3 water from the tank the fish came from and 1/3 new pre aged/ conditioned water in the bags when bagging fish.
6. Bags should contain about ¼ to 1/3 water with oxygen or air. Fish must always be completely covered by water in the bag to avoid unneeded stress
7. Use a product such as Prime by Seachem to help bind toxins such as ammonia, nitrite and nitrates in transit.
8. **BAGS. Use clear bags only**, no coloured or printed bags will be accepted
9. Square bottomed or rounded corner ones are best used to avoid fish being trapped and killed in the corners if the bags collapse. A size bag to suit the fish is most important, putting a large fish into a small bag will increase its stress and the chances of it not surviving!
10. The type of fish will depend on how you bag them, larger fish should always be packed as individuals , **cichlids 7.5 cms and larger, as well as fish known to be aggressive in nature** such as cobalts, demasoni, and most Americans **must** be separately bagged even when smaller , pairs are also best bagged separately, as are the more expensive or delicate ones such as Tropheus , Feather fins etc.
11. Two (2) fish in the one bag in most cases will only lead to problems and usually death or severe damage to one fish, as there will always be a dominant fish and no where to hide.
12. I always double bag fish, even guppies (one inside the other) and use 2 good quality elastic bands, bags are cheap and double bagging reduces the chances of deflating or spiking and leaks, larger fish with better spines can need 3 or even 4 bags
13. Multiple bags are to be placed inside a larger bag or securely taped around as well as across from the top to bottom of bags using wide clear tape. **NOT household sticky tape**
14. These steps when followed for bagging fish can apply to moving fish around and for shipping interstate where they may be in the bags for many hours.
15. **Remember dead fish are worth nothing so bagging them correctly is just common sense!**