



Is it a carp?

Some fish can look a bit carp-like at first glance. Correct identification matters because native fish need protection, while European carp have rules in Victoria.

European carp

Common, mirror and leather carp are all forms of European carp.



Key clues

- 1 Two pairs of whisker-like barbels
- 2 Fleshy sucking mouth
- 3 Deep, powerful body
- 4 Long dorsal fin
- 5 Large scales, or patchy / few scales in mirror and leather carp



In Victoria, European carp **must not be returned** to the water alive.

Could it be something else?

Native

Golden perch



Golden to bronze colouring, large mouth and rounded tail, no barbels.

Native

Murray cod



Broad head, very large mouth and olive mottled pattern. No barbels.

Native

Silver perch



Silver-grey body, smaller head and slightly forked tail. No barbels.

Introduced

Goldfish



Deep body, forked tail and small rounded mouth. No barbels.



The easiest clue:

Carp have whisker-like barbels. These other fish do not.