



Freshwater Sandhopper

They are also called 'Side-swimmers' because they seem to hop or flip when disturbed in the water or are picked up.

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Pollution tolerance	Very sensitive	Sensitive	Tolerant	Very tolerant
Size	6 - 20 mm long			

What they look like

Freshwater Sandhoppers look like Slaters. As they resemble large fleas, they're also known as beach fleas. They are slightly curled and flattened sideways. They have hard segments (rings dividing their bodies), each with a pair of legs. Sandhoppers have seven pairs of walking legs and three pairs of swimming legs, plus two pairs of antennae.

Where they live

Freshwater Sandhoppers prefer still or slow-flowing waters and live under vegetation and rocks. Some species live in estuaries, the sea or on land.

What they eat

Freshwater Sandhoppers are omnivores (om-nee-vorz); they mostly eat dead plant and animal matter, but they will also eat other animals.

Pollution tolerance

Tolerant, rating 3

Freshwater Sandhoppers cannot tolerate chemical pollution. Pollution damages their delicate gills, which they use to breathe.

What's interesting about the Freshwater Sandhopper?

- They swim by flicking their tail or using their swimming legs. When they crawl, they often lean to one side because they are flattened sideways.
- Sandhoppers that occur on land also have gills so that they can breathe. Gills need water in order to work properly, so the land-based sandhoppers have to live in a damp environment.

Where they fit in

Phylum Arthropoda > **Class** Crustacea > **Order** Amphipoda

