



Freshwater Shrimp

As the name suggests, they are like the prawns you get in the fish shop, only smaller.

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Pollution tolerance	Very sensitive	Sensitive	Tolerant	Very tolerant
Size	Up to 35 mm long			

What they look like

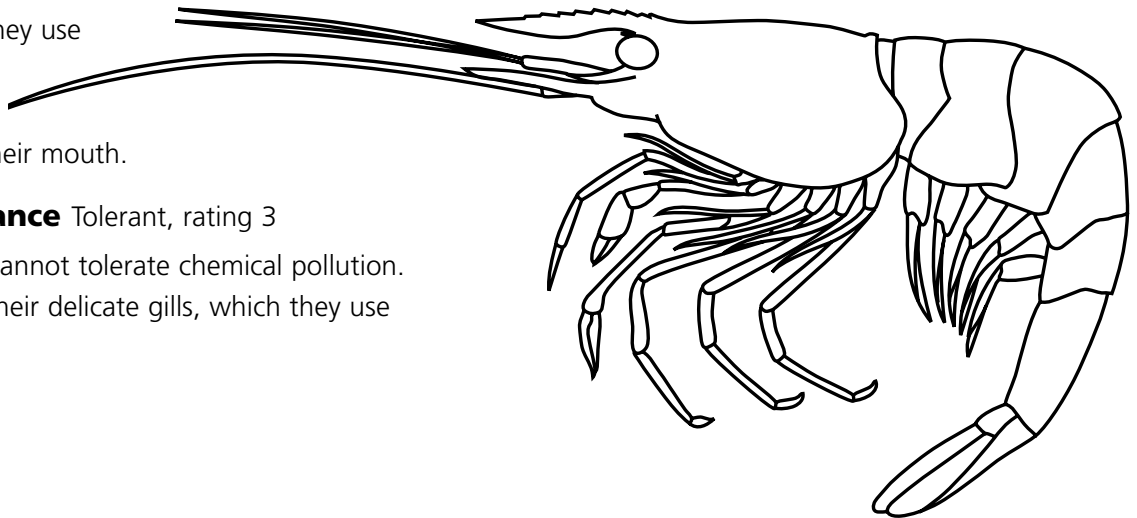
Freshwater Shrimp are translucent, with a very thin and smooth outer shell that is periodically shed as they grow. They have a large spine sticking out at the front of the head and a fan tail, which can be speckled with blue or green markings. Freshwater Shrimp have 10 jointed legs (they are *decapods*; deca – ten, pod - leg), well-developed swimmerets (swimming legs under their tail) and a body that is flattened sideways.

Where they live

Freshwater Shrimp are found in freshwater rivers and ponds, close to the bank, or on rocks and aquatic plants. They prefer slow flowing water.

What they eat

Freshwater Shrimp mainly eat decomposing vegetation, bacteria and particles of algae. They use their first two pairs of legs to grab the food and put it in their mouth.



Pollution tolerance Tolerant, rating 3

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

What’s interesting about the Freshwater Shrimp?

- Shrimp are transparent and are typically greyish in colour.
- They are very common in aquaculture ponds and farm dams, especially if there are plants.
- Many types of fish depend on them for food.

Where they fit in

Phylum Arthropoda > **Subphylum** Crustacea > **Class** Malacostraca > **Order** Decapoda > **Family** Atyidae.