Finches are small, gentle birds that come in a dazzling variety of colors. Finches should always be housed with at least one other finch, preferably more. The majority of finches sold in our store are society and zebra.

**Average Adult Size**  
3 - 8 inches long, head to end of tail

**Average Life Span**  
5 to 10+ years with proper care depending on the species

**Diet**  
herbivores

Bird pet parents should avoid non-stick cookware and appliances as they can release hazardous fumes, as well as any type of spray including **air fresheners**, **insecticides**, as these may prove fatal!

**Feeding**  
Fresh food and water should always be available.

* Feed specialized pellets and seed plus fresh vegetables and fruits. Discard any uneaten fruit and vegetables within a few hours.
* Clean, fresh, filtered chlorine-free water

**DO NOT FEED** avocado, fruit seeds, chocolate, caffeine or alcohol as these can cause serious medical conditions. Avoid sugar and high fat treats.

**Housing**  
* Finches acclimate well to average household temperatures, not to drop below 65 F degrees or to exceed 80 F degrees; be cautious of extreme temperature changes. Habitat should be placed off the floor in an area that is well-lit and away from drafts.
* A habitat 24”Wx14”Dx18”H, with metal bars spaced no greater than 3/8” apart, makes a good home for up to three finches, however, a flight habitat is recommended. It is best to provide the largest habitat possible.
* Perches should be at least 3” long and 1/4” in diameter; a variety of perches sized to exercise feet and help prevent arthritis is recommended.
* A metal grate over the droppings tray will keep the bird away from droppings; line the droppings tray with habitat paper or appropriate substrate for easier cleaning. To avoid contamination, do not place food or water containers under perches.
* Finches should be kept with at least one other finch, preferably more and can be housed with several other flock, non-aggressive species in an aviary. Depending on the species, some finches can be housed with other types of finches. Different types of birds should not be housed together.
* Birds should be socialized daily by the pet parent softly talking to the birds.
Normal Behavior
* Finches need the company of other finches to thrive.
* Most finch species make frequent, pleasant chirping noises.
* Finches need room to fly in their habitat.
* Provide toys which promote important mental stimulation.

Habitat Maintenance
* Clean and disinfect the habitat and perches regularly with soap and water, replace substrate or habitat liner weekly or more often as needed.
* Replace perches, dishes and toys when worn or damaged, rotate new toys into the habitat regularly.
* Ensure that there are no habitat parts or toys with lead zinc or lead based paints or galvanized parts as these can cause serious medical issues if ingested by your bird.
* Do not use a lot of cleaning agents around your bird as the fumes can be harmful. It is recommended to use a natural cleaning product.

Grooming & Hygiene
* Provide filtered, chlorine free, lukewarm water regularly for bathing; remove the water when done. As an alternative, mist the birds with water.

Health
Signs of a Healthy Animal
* active, alert, and sociable
* eats and drinks throughout the day
* dry nose and bright, dry eyes
* beak, legs and feet normal in appearance
* clean dry vent
* smooth, well-groomed feathers

Red Flags
* beak swelling or accumulations
* fluffed, plucked, or soiled feathers
* sitting on floor of habitat
* wheezing or coughing
* runny or discolored stools
* favoring one foot when not sleeping
* eye or nasal discharge
* red or swollen eyes
* loss of appetite

Common health issues - consult with avian veterinarian
Lice or feather mites - restlessness, scratching, feather picking.
Diarrhea - fecal portion of stool not formed, multiple causes, from change in diet to internal parasites.
Mites (scales and leg disease) - white deposits on eyes, beak, legs and feet.
Avian pox - lesions in mouth, scabs on eyes and face.

Caution - Because all birds are potential carries of infectious diseases, always wash your hands before and after handling your bird or habitat contents to help prevent the potential spread of disease. Pregnant women, children under the age of 5, senior citizens and people with weakened immune systems should contact their physician before purchasing or caring for birds and should consider not having a bird as a pet.