

Brine Shrimp

A CAROLINA™ CareSheet

Hatching Brine Shrimp Eggs

For culturing, we recommend our Brine Shrimp Hatchery Kit (item #142214) or the following method.

Fill a 2-liter soft drink bottle (with its top cut off) with aged, conditioned tap water. (See General Guidelines for conditioning tap water.) Dissolve about 2 tablespoons of noniodized salt per one liter of water (synthetic sea salt is preferable, or rock salt). This will create enough saltwater to hatch ¼ tablespoon to one level tablespoon of brine shrimp eggs. You need a lamp to provide constant light. Drop in a coarse-bubbling air stone or other bubbler to circulate the water and provide oxygen.

At temperatures of 26 to 28° C (80 to 82° F), the eggs will hatch in 24 hours. Lower temperatures result in longer hatching times. Do not exceed 30° C (86° F). When hatching is complete (not all cysts hatch), remove the air stone and direct the light to the middle of the bottle. The shells of the old cysts float, unhatched cysts settle to the bottom, and the young shrimp (nauplii) concentrate in the light. Skim off most of the old shells and discard them.

Feeding

To prepare a yeast suspension as food for the shrimp, make a salt solution as before. Stir in enough baker's yeast to make the water milky, and refrigerate the yeast suspension. Agitate before use to resuspend the yeast. Feed your shrimp a few drops of the yeast suspension each day. Alternatively, crush 3 to 4 grains of dry baker's yeast on clean paper and dust this on the surface of the brine shrimp culture. Avoid overfeeding. The water in the culture should not become clouded. Each week, draw off and replace about ¼ of the culture water with new saltwater. As the shrimp grow, you may have to set up additional containers to avoid overcrowding.

FAQ's

I had many cysts that didn't hatch. What should I do with them?

Most of these cysts are slow hatchers. Add them to a new bottle of saltwater. They should hatch on the second try.

How long does it take brine shrimp to reach adulthood?

Under good conditions, newly hatched brine shrimp reach adulthood in 8 days. Adults average about 8 mm in body length but can be double that length.

How can I tell if my brine shrimp are healthy?

Shine a flashlight into the bottle. If they do not concentrate in the light, they are not healthy. If you have a microscope, examine the digestive tract, which is a straight tube running the length of the shrimp's body. It should be full of food.

Can I refrigerate brine shrimp?

They can be refrigerated (not frozen) for several days. Feed them several hours before refrigeration.

Why are my brine shrimp dying?

They could be overcrowded; divide the culture. Check for insufficient aeration or for an air stone that produces a fine mist of bubbles instead of large bubbles. Small bubbles can clog the shrimp's feeding system and starve them.

Problems? We hope not, but if so contact us. We want you to have a good experience.

Orders and replacements: 1-800-334-5551 then select Customer Service

Technical Support and Questions: caresheets@carolina.com



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