

EXCLUSIVE BETTA

Hatching Baby Brine Shrimp (BBS)

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Storing Brine Shrimp Eggs

Brine shrimp eggs should to be stored free from moisture. If you have a tin or big batch then it would be best to take out the amount you need and store in the refrigerator for frequent use and the rest stored in the freezer.

Environment for Hatching

Follow these guidelines for the best results:

- **Hatching Cone:**
Avoid the use of flat bottomed vessels. A Cone or "V" bottomed containers are best to ensure that the cysts remain in suspension during hatching. A rain gauge or 2L soda bottle can be used as easy DIY hatcheries. Always wash the hatching vessel between uses. Cones should be translucent for light transmittance and for ease of harvesting.
- **Salinity:**
Approximately ***1½ tablespoons of salt per litre of water***. This equates to roughly 1.018 specific gravity as measured with a hydrometer. Always use aquarium salt kosher or non-iodized table salt. If the salt concentration is too low the baby brine shrimp may not hatch.
- **pH:**
pH is important in hatching brine shrimp. If the pH of your water is below 7, Baking soda or Epsom salt can be added at the rate of ½ teaspoon per 3L.
- **Temperature:**
BBS requires an optimum water temperature to obtain a good hatch rate. This can range from 26 – 28 °C and should not exceed 30°C. Lower temperatures often lead to a longer hatching time.
- **Light:**
Light is not necessary but can be used for a better hatch rate. A light can also be used a source of heat.
- **Aeration:**
Constant aeration keeps the cysts tumbling and provides provide sufficient oxygen levels for the BBS to hatch. After a few minutes cysts that wash up on the sides of the hatchery can pushed back into suspension.
- **Stocking Density:**
1 gram per litre or ½ level teaspoon of BBS per litre is recommended. A higher stocking density often results in a lower hatch percentage.

Hatching Procedure

1. Setup the hatching cone in a well-lit area.
2. Mix 1½ tablespoons of salt per litre of water and add to the hatchery.
3. Turn the air pump on to provide aeration and to keep the BBS in suspension.

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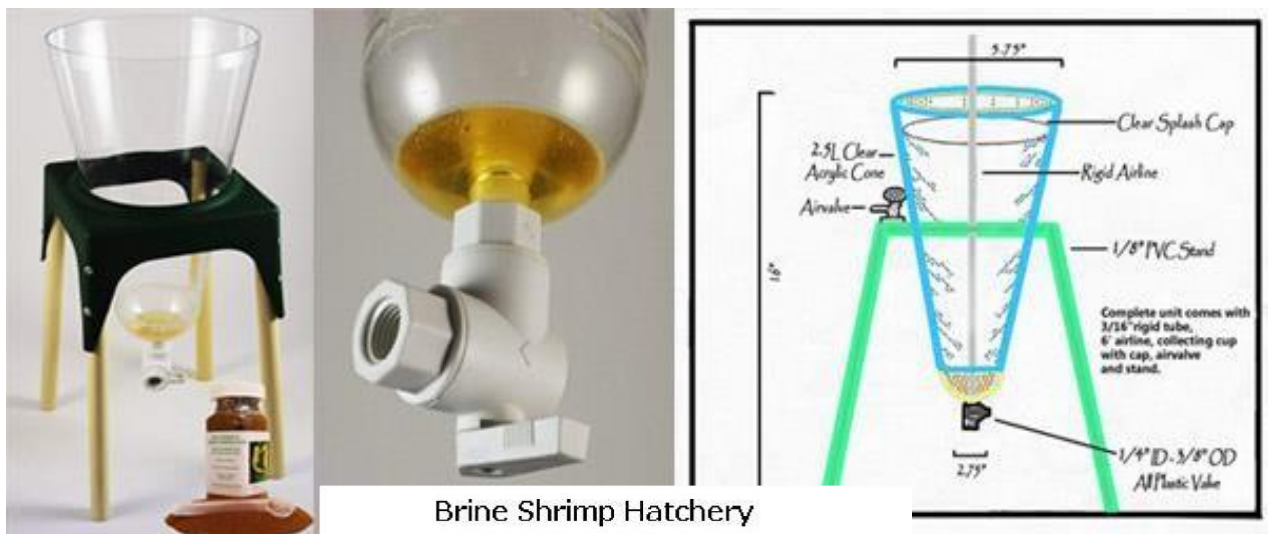
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4. Baby brine shrimp should begin hatching between 18 – 36 hours. This is dependent on the temperature.
5. To harvest BBS, turn the aeration off and allow the BBS to settle. Unhatched eggs and newly hatched BBS should sink and majority of the empty shells will float. A light source can also be used to attract the BBS to a specific area. The newly hatched BBS can be siphoned using airline tubing or drained through the bottom via an air control valve. The BBS can then be rinsed in clean water using a fine sieve or mesh net before feeding to your fish.

- *BBS are most nutritious within the first 24hrs of hatching.*

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Brine Shrimp Hatchery

