Brine Shrimp

Carolina ™ CareSheet

Note: Many city water systems now treat tap water with chloramines. These compounds do not dissipate by aging the water, so removing them requires a dechlorinator (item #671939). Brine shrimp eggs may not hatch in water that contains chloramines, so removing chloramines from tap water is critical. For details, see our "General Guidelines on Living Materials from Carolina Biological Supply Company Care Sheet" at www.carolina.com/caresheets.

Hatching brine shrimp eggs

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

In 1 liter of springwater or dechlorinated tap water, dissolve 2 tablespoonfuls of noniodized salt. The exact amount of salt is not critical. Synthetic sea salt is best, but rock salt also works. This is enough saltwater for hatching ¼ tablespoon to 1 level tablespoon of brine shrimp eggs. Hatching requires constant light, so you need a lamp. Drop in a coarse-bubbling air stone or other bubbler to provide needed circulation and oxygen.

The eggs hatch in 24 hours at temperatures of 26º to 28º C (80º to 82º F). Lower temperatures result in longer hatching times. Do not exceed 30º C (86º F), or the young may be damaged. When hatching concludes (not all eggs hatch), remove the air stone and direct the light to the middle of the bottle. The shells of hatched eggs float, unhatched eggs settle to the bottom, and

FAQs

I had many eggs that didn’t hatch. What should I do with t hem?
Most of these eggs are slow hatchers. Mix up a new bottle of saltwater and add them to it. They should hatch on the second try.