

# Brine Shrimp Hatcher Assembly and Installation Guide

(Part No. BS252; Repl. Parts: BS25C, BS25L)

This hatcher is designed to provide maximum circulation, no dead spots and the best hatch possible. To facilitate harvesting, we have provided a smooth turning valve at the bottom. When airflow is cut off, newly hatched nauplii (baby brine shrimp) will concentrate in the lower third of the hatcher and are easily removed by drawing off water through the bottom valve.

## Prior to Use

It is important that the cone is supported from one-third to one-half up from the bottom (support stand is included). For proper harvesting, it is important that access to the bottom valve is at least 3 inches from the floor. Prior to use, fill hatcher with fresh water and aerate for 24 hours, drain and rinse well.

## Hatching Instructions

We recommend following the instructions provided by the brine shrimp egg (cyst) supplier regarding salinity, pH, temperature and hatching time. However, after many years experience in using these hatchers, we find that some deviations may be made which usually enhance the yield when using small volumes of water.

### Salts

Best results are obtained when full-bodied salts are used, not just rock salt. The salt mixture must be well-mixed and aerated before using. A kitchen blender is an excellent way to properly and quickly mix small volumes of salt water. Mix for 3 minutes.

### Water Level

Because of the shape of this hatcher, as little as one quart of water can be used, or fill to about one inch from the top. Either way will provide good circulation.

### Stocking Density

Follow the suggestions of the cyst producer until a higher yield is wanted. Our experience has shown that as much as 1.2 tablespoons of brine shrimp eggs per liter (quart) of water can be hatched, provided that premium cysts are used. This is a considerable number of eggs, approximately 200,000 to 300,000 hatchlings per gram (about 3.3 grams per teaspoon), and we don't recommend this for average use.

### Aeration

The hatcher does not require an air diffuser. Place the rigid tube through the hole in the splash cap and into the valve hole in the hatcher bottom. Provide heavy aeration for maximum circulation and oxygenation. Note air valve provided. Diffusers may be needed when attempting maximum yields.

### Temperature

Premium quality cysts hatch in 18 hours, but normal cysts hatch in 23 to 28 hours at 80–85°F (27–30°C). Starting the hatcher with warm water or allowing time for the water to warm before adding cysts reduces hatching time. Be cautious when using the higher range temperature in conjunction with high densities. Hatch can quickly die and foul at high temperatures and low oxygen. We recommend a submersible heater in colder rooms.

### Light

Moderate constant light often enhances hatch.

## Harvesting Brine Shrimp

1. Remove cap and air line from hatcher after 24 hours.
2. Allow brine shrimp to settle for 10 minutes, but no longer than 15 minutes.
3. A distinct separation occurs with layers of unhatched eggs on the bottom, followed by hatched nauplii just off the bottom and hatched shells on the surface. Older hatches do not separate as distinctly and a bright light source can be used to help concentrate the nauplii.
4. Open valve slowly and removed unhatched eggs and set aside. Slowly drain hatched nauplii into the collecting cup provided or into a brine shrimp net (150 to 200 micron mesh). Before adding brine shrimp to tank, separate them from the water by concentrating them in a brine shrimp net.
5. Add directly into the tank or set aside the nauplii for further enrichment or growout.
6. Nauplii can be rinsed with fresh water if desired for a few minutes without damage.
7. Unhatched eggs can be set up again and further nauplii can usually be harvested 12 hours later (total 36 hours).



## Cleaning Hatcher

1. Thoroughly wash walls of hatcher with soft sponge until slime film is removed. This slime can drastically reduce hatch. Sides should be "squeaky clean." Do not use soap. Wash rigid air line.
2. At times, the hatcher may have to be filled with fresh, lightly chlorinated water (3 mL or 1/2 teaspoon) for several hours. After chlorination, rinse and let dry.
3. We recommend the use of more than one hatcher so that one can be cleaned and allowed to dry while the other is in use.

## Warranty

We test each hatcher for leaks and defects. The hatcher is guaranteed against manufacturer defects for 30 days. In order to honor the warranty, the entire hatcher must be returned for replacement. Warranty does not include damage from being dropped or mishandled. Owner assumes all freight costs.



AQUATIC ECO-SYSTEMS™