

Saltwater Rotifer Care

Thank you for purchasing rotifers from Home-Raised Aquatics. In the bag or bottle it may look like you received only water. Look closely and you will see tiny white dots in the water. Those are the rotifers. This sheet will give you a general guideline on the care of rotifers. There are many different ways to care for rotifers but these guidelines will help you culture rotifers that can help you raise healthy saltwater fish, corals, or invertebrates.

Rotifers need clean water, aeration, and food to survive. It is recommended that you feed your rotifers live marine micoralgae in order to achieve the correct nutritional balance for marine fish larvae, corals or invertebrates.

Starting a Culture

- **STEP 1:** Setup a 5.5 to 10 gallon aquarium (just tank and hood).
 - **STEP 2:** Setup an airpump with airstone and tubing.
 - **STEP 3:** If room temperature is below 65⁰ F you will need a heater.
 - **STEP 4:** Add rotifers to the tank
 - **STEP 5:** Fill the tank with saltwater that is the same salinity of the rotifer water . (this is very important because too much change in the salinity will kill them.) (1.019 is approximately what they are shipped in)
 - **STEP 5:** Feed the rotifers
-

Rotifer Food

Rotifers can be fed yeast or strained V8 Juice. However these foods are not very nutritious and can cause water quality problems. The easiest and most nutritious way is to culture your own algae. Add food to the tank until it is cloudy, tinted green or tinted red (depending on food fed). When the tank clears in a few days you will need to feed them again.

Weekly Maintenance

- **STEP 1:** Use a credit card and scrape the bottom and sides of the tank
- **STEP 2:** Wait about 10 minutes for the debris to settle to the bottom
- **STEP 3:** Siphon debris from bottom and empty tank until less than an inch of water remains
- **STEP 4:** Discard water removed and fill tank with new water at the correct salinity

Saltwater Rotifer Harvesting

To harvest your rotifers you need a rotifer collection net or a coffee filter. Siphon the rotifer water into the filter or net then when you have the desired amount of rotifers stop. To add the rotifers to the tank where they will be fed simply rinse them out of the net or filter and into the tank. When feeding baby fish larvae on the first day you should feed a lot of rotifers. About 3 gallons of high density rotifer water. Check the tank water after feeding. You should see little white dots all over the place. If on the first day of feeding there is not about 3 rotifers for every millimeter then you need to add more rotifers. 7 days after your weekly maintenance you should have the highest density of rotifers. Time your weekly maintenance according to the expected hatch date.

Tips

- Use an ammonia gauge to keep track of water quality.
- Don't change as much of the rotifer water when you need a higher density.
- Add Selcon, Selco or some other marine supplement to the rotifers to increase their nutritional value.
- If using marine algae keep the tank next to the lighting so the algae multiplies with the rotifers. (rotifers always win but the food lasts longer).
- Have a back-up culture in case one fails
- Start a culture outside if weather permits in a large barrel in the sun.
- Keep salinity levels within 0.006 of the rotifer culture so they won't die. (That means the tank they are being fed to needs to be within that range too.)
- Always use a rotifer net or coffee filter do not add rotifer water to your tanks.
- If you use tap water make sure you use a dechlorinator like Stress Coat[®] or Aquasafe[®].

Contact customerservice@homeraisedaquatics.com for additional help!

You can also purchase additional live cultures, corals, inverts, and fish by visiting www.homeraisedaquatics.com