

BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO RAISING HEALTHY BABY CRAYFISH



OVERVIEW

Scientific Name	_____	Cambarus sp.
Common Name	_____	Crayfish, Crawfish, or Crawdad
Size	_____	7.5 cm (3 inches)
Weight	_____	0.18-83.43 g
Optimal Temperature	_____	65-77 degrees Fahrenheit
Optimal Humidity	_____	70-100%
Diet	_____	Omnivores
Temperament	_____	Aggressive
Social Nature	_____	Social but territorial
Price	_____	\$6.95-\$149.95
Lifespan	_____	2-3 years

HOW ARE CRAYFISH BORN?

Breeding crayfishes is pretty much straightforward. If you have a male and a female in a tank with a proper setup, they'll breeding eventually.

When male mates with the female crayfish, he puts a sack of sperm under the belly of the female crayfish. The female crayfish then passes her eggs through that sperm pocket to the tail. The eggs get fertilized and attach themselves to the swimmerets of the female crayfish.

The eggs stay attached to the swimmerets for about 4 weeks. This is called the gestation period. The period can be influenced by many other factors such as temperature of the environment, season, water condition, etc.

TANK SETUP FOR BABY CRAYFISHES



We need to know how to setup a proper tank for the baby crayfishes. In this tank, the babies will stay for a few weeks until they get aggressive and start to attack each other.

Let's see what things you should put in your crayfish tank.

1. SUBSTRATE



Substrate is very important for crayfishes. They need substrate to dig through it. Digging & burrowing is one of crayfish's natural behaviors. So, you need a good layer of substrate for the babies.

I recommend using sand. Sand is easy to clean, maintain as well as perfect for digging. The babies won't face a hard time digging through the sand and it will also keep them safe from one another.

2. WATER QUALITY



The baby crayfishes need pristine quality water to grow. Also, the water needs to be free from chlorine & chloramine. For this, I suggest using a water conditioner.

A good water conditioner will take care of the chlorine and chloramine for you. There are lots of water conditioners available in the market. You'll never know if a cheap one is working or not. That's why I recommend getting one from a reputed brand. I'll suggest **Seachem Prime**.

3. FILTRATION & AERATION



For baby crayfishes, I'll suggest a sponge filter. Nothing else.

The flow rate of a HOB can be too much for the babies. Also, crayfishes need aeration in their tank to grow properly. That's why a sponge filter is the best. It will aerate the tank as well as filter the water.

Just get your hands on a big size sponge filter. The bigger the sponge filter is, the more beneficial bacterial colony it can hold and consequently, the water quality will get better.

4. HIDING PLACES



Crayfishes need lots of hiding places in their tank. Even the babies need hiding places to keep themselves safe from each other. I'll suggest to throw in some pieces of PVC pipes. These work great as hiding places for the crayfish.

You can also put lots of aquatic plants in the tank. Though the crayfish will eat the plants, a dense plantation will work great as a hiding spot too! Also, plants help to keep the water fresh & clean.

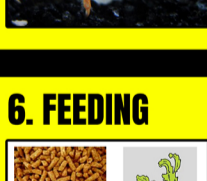
5. TANK COVER



Crayfishes are excellent escape artists. They'll find a way to escape from the tank if you don't have a tank cover. Trust me with this.

You'll must need a cover for a crayfish tank. Otherwise you'll see baby crayfishes lurking around your living room soon!

6. FEEDING



Feeding baby crayfishes is very easy and straightforward. They'll eat any food that is suitable for the adult ones. You'll just need to crush the food pellets or algae wafer so the babies can fit them in their mouth.

If you want my recommendation for crayfish food, check out my crayfish feeding guide. You'll know which foods I like to feed my crayfish, why I like them and what schedule I follow to feed my crayfish.

HOW LONG DO BABY CRAYFISH STAY WITH THEIR MOTHER?

Baby crayfishes can stay with their mother for about 2 weeks. After being hatched, within the first 2 weeks, the babies stay under the tail of the mother crayfish.

This keeps the babies safe. During this period, the babies catch floating food particles with their claws and eat those. After 2 weeks, when the babies leave the mother, they can independently live on their own.

DO CRAYFISHES EAT THEIR BABIES?

Yes, crayfishes eat their babies. Crayfishes are very bad parents. The mom will take care of the babies only for a few days until they babies start to swim around on their own.

Once the babies are developed enough to swim around, the mom can eat them. That's why at this stage you need to separate the mom from the babies.

WHAT DO BABY CRAYFISH EAT?

Generally, baby crayfish are algae eaters. In the wild, baby crayfish survive upon algae, microorganisms, plankton, soft leaves, etc. In addition, these baby crayfish may have small worms, mosquito larvae, fish eggs, decaying plants, etc.

When these babies grow a bit older, they may consume dead fish, shrimp, frog tadpoles, fish tadpoles, etc. Depending on the growth, baby crayfish may eat varieties of foods in the wild