

# CRAYFISH EGG CARE FOR BEGINNERS



## WHEN THE FEMALE CRAYFISH DEVELOPS EGGS?

If you feed high-quality food and the water parameters are in the right range, then the sexually matured female will soon develop eggs. At this stage, the eggs are still unfertilized.

The male crayfish will mate with the female and deposit a sack of sperm on the female. Then the female crayfish will pass her eggs through that sperm sack and throughout the process, the eggs will get fertilized.



## HOW TO TELL IF CRAYFISH EGGS ARE FERTILIZED?

1. If the female is 'berried', that means if you can see the eggs under her tail.
2. Fertilized eggs start with black color. With time, you'll see yellowish/white splotches on the eggs.
3. Unfertilized eggs develop orange color in them.

## DO CRAYFISH LAY UNFERTILIZED EGGS?

A female crayfish can develop eggs on her own. However, without the male's sperm, the eggs will stay unfertilized. With time, the female will shed the unfertilized eggs and eat them. You can also see the eggs turning orange if they are unfertilized.



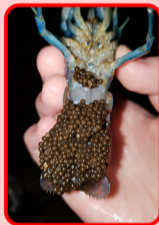
## HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE FOR CRAYFISH EGGS TO HATCH?

The hatching time can depend on many things. In most of the cases, the eggs take at least 3 to 4 weeks to hatch.

## CAN CRAYFISH LAY EGGS WITHOUT MATING?

The female crayfish will shed her eggs if they are unfertilized. She will only get 'berried' if the male's sperm sack is present and the eggs get fertilized.

The female can get the male's sperm sack only after mating. She can store it for the next 6 months. So, if within that period the female develops eggs, chances are the eggs will get fertilized and the female will lay them under her tail.



## HOW DO CRAYFISH PROTECT THEIR EGGS?

The females typically will dig through the substrate and hide under a burrow. This burrowing activity provides protection to the female crayfish as well as to her eggs.



## WHAT COLOR ARE CRAYFISH EGGS?

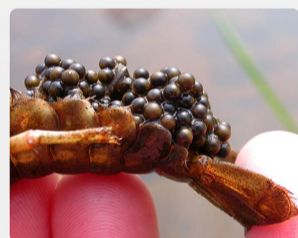
The exact color will depend mainly on the species of the crayfish.

Fertilized eggs generally start their journey with black color. With time as they get more developed, the color will lighten. In most cases, the eggs will get brownish as they develop.

As the embryo develops, it will consume more egg yolk. As a result, the eggs will start to get



1st Stage



2nd Stage



3rd Stage

## DO CRAYFISH DIE AFTER LAYING EGGS?

Crayfish will not die after laying eggs, especially if you take the correct steps. When you see the female is berried, that means carrying eggs under her tail,

- Immediately separate her to another tank. Don't keep any other tank mates there
- Feed the female high-quality food, do regular water changes and keep lots of hiding places.
- Once the babies start to swim around on their own, then you should separate the mom crayfish from her babies.

## CAN YOU EAT CRAYFISH EGGS?

The raw eggs of crayfish are not edible for humans. Due to bacteria and other harmful microorganisms, you can not eat crayfish eggs in raw forms.

But, you can eat crayfish eggs by cooking various recipes for these eggs. After cooking these crayfish eggs, these eggs will turn red coloration from black. These crayfish eggs are almost similar to fish eggs.

## HOW MANY EGGS DO CRAYFISH LAY?

The number of eggs that crayfish lay depends upon several factors. Such as the health of the crayfish, the size of the crayfish, crayfish species, environmental conditions, etc.

The average number of eggs that crayfish lay ranges from 100-150 each time.

Generally, the larger crayfish can lay around 500-650 eggs each time.

However, only 50% of the

## HOW OFTEN DO CRAYFISH REPRODUCE?

The reproduction season for crayfish starts from autumn to spring.

Crayfish mate in the autumn season, they take time to hatch the eggs. Crayfish may lay eggs during the spring season.

To have the next batch of babies, these crayfish may take around 5-7 months after hatching one round of eggs.