

Shad in the Classroom

How to Add Shad Eggs to Your Tank

On the morning of the day you will receive your eggs, add the entire 2 oz. bottle of Dr. Tim's One and Only Bacteria Starter. Follow the directions on the bottle. You don't want to add it too soon as it needs a food source (waste from the eggs and decaying eggs).

As soon as you receive the eggs, place the entire bag of eggs (they should remain closed) into the top reservoir so that they are floating in the tank. This allows the temperature in the bag to acclimate to the temperature in the tank. Open the bag every 15 minutes and place some water from the top reservoir (a few turkey basters full) into the bag. Check the temperature inside the bag of eggs using the thermometer from the tank.

When the temperature of the water in the egg bag matches the temperature in the tank you are ready to start adding your eggs to the egg chamber. Turn down the flow rate into the egg chamber and remove the transparent PVC piping from the egg chamber. Place this tubing into the top reservoir. Use the turkey baster to remove almost all of the water from the egg chamber or unscrew the C-clamp and empty the egg chamber directly into the top reservoir.

Use the turkey baster to transfer the eggs into the egg chamber, or carefully and slowly pour your eggs into the egg chamber. If any eggs come out of the egg chamber and into the fry chamber use the turkey baster to place them back into the egg chamber.

Once all of the eggs are in the egg chamber, replace the transparent PVC piping into the egg chamber. Adjust the flow rate so that the eggs are bubbling around steadily at the bottom of the egg chamber. Be careful that the flow is not strong enough to push eggs out of the spout at the top of the egg chamber. It is important that the eggs move around in the chamber to mimic their natural habitat.

NOTE: You need to be careful when shutting of your pump and adjusting its flow. If the pump gets shut off or if you adjust your flow too abruptly, it can cause water (and eggs or fry) to be sucked back down the tubing into the lower reservoir. If you need to shut your pump off, first remove the hard plastic piece from the egg chamber and hold it over the upper reservoir. When you need to adjust water flow, turn the valve slowly and watch for any backwash.