

# Algae-Eating Shrimp (freshwater)

## Carolina™ CareSheet

### Immediate care and handling

When your algae-eating shrimp arrive, open the box and remove the shipping bag containing your shrimp. Open the bag, allowing in fresh air. Have a holding pail (glass, plastic, or stainless steel) or an aquarium ready and filled with conditioned tap water. (See the “General Guidelines on Living Materials from Carolina Biological Supply Company Care Sheet” at [www.carolina.com/caresheets](http://www.carolina.com/caresheets) for information about conditioning tap water.) **Note:** *These are freshwater shrimp. Do not add them to a marine aquarium.* If the water in the shipping bag feels very cold, simply allow it several hours to reach room temperature before beginning the acclimatization procedure below. **Note:** *Do not add warm water to the bag. The temperature shock will kill the shrimp either immediately or within a few days.*

### Acclimatization procedure

Float the open bag in the holding pail or aquarium. After 20 to 30 minutes, remove and discard about ¼ of the water from the bag and replace it with an equal amount of water from the holding pail or aquarium. Wait 15 minutes and repeat. After another 15 minutes, carefully remove the shrimp from the bag with a net and place them in the holding pail or aquarium. Discard the water in the shipping bag by flushing it down a sink with tap water.

### Classroom habitat setup

Establish your aquarium at least 2 weeks prior to receiving the shrimp. This gives you time to ensure that the biological filtration operates properly. Carefully choose your aquarium’s location. Select an area with diffuse light and a fairly constant temperature (18 to 25° C, 64 to 77° F).

Because shrimp and other aquarium animals are cold-blooded, do not place aquariums in direct sunlight or unusually bright artificial light. Water temperature in an aquarium placed in direct sunlight can be as much as 5° C above room temperature. At night, rapidly cooling water stresses the shrimp and leaves them vulnerable to disease. Keep your shrimp healthy by avoiding the 3 deadly stresses: temperature shock, pH stress, and toxin buildup. In addition to monitoring temperature, regularly check the water’s pH and the aquarium’s filtration system. For more information on establishing and maintaining an aquarium, see *Carolina’s Freshwater Aquarium Handbook* that you received with your shrimp shipment.

### FAQs

#### **What should I do with the water in the shipping bag?**

Discard all shipping water by flushing it down a sink with tap water. It contains waste products given off by the shrimp during shipment, and you cannot use it in your aquarium.

#### **Can I house my algae-eating shrimp in an aquarium with fish?**

The shrimp are nonaggressive toward fish. Some larger fish may eat them, but otherwise they mix well with most aquarium fish. Provide a couple of hiding places where the shrimp can retreat to molt.

#### **What should I feed my algae-eating shrimp?**

As their name implies, algae-eating shrimp feed on algae that naturally grow in most aquariums. In an established healthy aquarium, no additional feeding is needed.

### **How can I keep my algae-eating shrimp healthy?**

The period following the introduction of the shrimp into an aquarium is critical. Properly acclimate your shrimp to get them off to a good start. Maintain your aquarium to keep them healthy. Once each month, remove about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the aquarium water and replace it with fresh water, aged and treated with water conditioner. This dilutes any toxic buildup in the aquarium and keeps pH and ionic balances within normal range. **Note:** *To avoid sudden changes in temperature and pH, never replace more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the water at a time.*

### **All my algae-eating shrimp died soon after we put them in the aquarium. What went wrong?**

If the fish in the tank are healthy, you may not have properly acclimated the shrimp. Shrimp are more sensitive to copper ions in water than are fish. This may be the problem if the water pipes at your school are less than 3 years old or recently underwent major repairs. Try using water from another source or bottled spring water.

### **Problems?**

We hope not, but if so, contact us. We want you to have a good experience.

**Orders and replacements:** Call 800.334.5551, then select Customer Service.

**Technical support and questions:** E-mail [caresheets@carolina.com](mailto:caresheets@carolina.com).



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