

Fish Feeding Guidelines

By Debruce Hatchery (845-439-4328)

Your food comes in three different sizes. Start feeding with the bag marked 0's, then 1's, then 2's. The food is perishable, so keep the bags sealed and, in a refrigerator, if possible.

First Feeding: Size 0 (meal)

Your hatchlings do not require feeding for 7-14 days after hatching. They will feed from their yolk sac as they stay low, at the bottom of the hatching basket. After the first hatchling begin to rise off the bottom, start providing a very small amount of food. Offering food early helps with trout development but uneaten food must be removed.

NOTE: A small mortality rate is expected since some hatchlings never begin eating.

Finish Size 0 before moving on to Size 1 food. The transition to Size 1 typically occurs when your fish reach about 1" in length.

Finish Size 1 before moving on to Size 2 food. The transition to Size 2 typically occurs when your fish reach about 1 1/2" in length

Quantity: When born, your hatchlings are very small. Assuming 50 baby fish feed them approximately the following amount of food each day--interpolate as needed:

- First feedings, fish still in hatch box: feed very little food.
- Fish just out of hatch box: 0.08 grams of food.
- Fish = approx. 1": 0.34 grams of food. (Switch to size 1 now).
- Fish = approx. 1 1/2": 0.85 grams of food (Switch to size 2 now).
- Fish = approx. 2 1/4": 2.7 grams of food (Fish ready for release).

NOTE: You can calculate feeding amounts quite precisely by using the formula below, however the best rule of thumb for feeding trout is to feed an amount that is consumed by the trout in approximately 1 minute.

The 0's and 1's may need to be sunk down to the fish, because the oil added to the food may cause it to float. A small plastic paddle will work fine. When the food is introduced to the water directly above the fish a slight back and forth motion should get the food to sink.

- Please do not to overfeed your fish. Wasted food will degrade water quality.
- Clumps of dull yellow forming on the bottom or sides of your tank should be removed immediately with a net or a small siphon.
- When the fish get larger and you switch over to size 2, you will be able to see them actively feeding more than you will with sizes 0 and 1.
- Be sure to take out dead fish.
- Keep your food in a dark place out of direct sunlight (in a refrigerator, if possible).



- When you are about to run out of one size of food, mix a little of what's left into the next size larger before switching.
- It is better to feed less food, more often, than a lot of food all at once.

A Note About Enthusiastic Help:

Every year, many schools enlist the assistance of volunteers to feed the fish on the weekends and holidays. These well-meaning folk often become great fans of the fish, and are soon spending their breaks watching and feeding them. People with different schedules feed the fish unaware that others are doing the same. You might not want to just warn these fans about over-feeding, but have a sheet of paper near the tank so they can track how often the fish have been fed. You can also put out the correct amount of food, pre-divided and marked in daily increments, and conceal the rest.

Calculating Food Quantity:

The formula is simple.

$$\frac{1}{(P/N)} \times 0.03 = \text{weight of food needed to feed fish in POUNDS}$$

Where

P = Number of fish per pound

N = Number of fish in tank

EXAMPLE:

At birth, your fish will weigh about 8000 to the pound. If you started with 200 eggs, they will require only 0.012 ounces or 0.34 grams per day. They will reach about 1" before you need to move up to size 1, by then they will weigh about 2000 to the pound (bigger fish, less per pound) and will require about 0.048 ounces or 1.36 grams of food.

Approximate number of fish per pound...based on average length:

- At Birth: 8000
- At 1": 2000
- At 1 1/2": 800
- At 2 1/4": 250