

Rack System

Pros: Can have multiple snakes in a rather small footprint.

Cons: Can be expensive depending on the number of tubs and you may need to have multiple sized tubs/rack setups to upgrade the bin for your Ball Python as it ages and grows. Cannot generally “See” your Ball Python as most tubs are opaque or solid and not see through.

Hides: No necessary in most cases (unless using clear tubs), If hides are used at least one on the warm side and if room permits one on the cool side appropriately sized to the tub and animal.

Heat: Heat for Racks is provided by Heat tape that must be regulated by a quality thermostat.

Glass Enclosures

Pros: Most Chain Pet Stores have these! Can often be found on the secondhand market at a lower cost.

Cons: Poor material to effectively maintain proper requirements though it is possible, if modified, as they generally have too much ventilation (top lids are generally screens) and the cost of modifications/supplies can be as much as a PVC enclosure. Does not maintain humidity well. Does not hold in heat well. However, If this is the only option available here are some suggested modifications

Heat: ceramic heat emitter placed on the “Hot” Side of the enclosure Attached to a quality thermostat with the thermostat probe a few inches under the ceramic bulb. (Using hi temp zip ties to dangle the probe a few inches below the bulb works great). You will need to monitor temps inside the hide with a temperature gun or thermometer to dial in the thermostat to the temperature required to get the inside of the hide to the optimal temperature range. (Thermostat may need to be set to 95+ to get the hide/hotspot to the 87-90 range) (ambient temperatures will play a big factor in this the warmer your ambient temperature the easier you can dial things in properly)

Lid: Cover 80-90% of the top of the screen with either some type of an acrylic sheet or HVAC Silver Tape to help keep in humidity.

Sides: Black out or cover 3 sides leaving the front uncovered with either contact paper or foam board etc. to help create a more secure environment.

Temperature Monitoring: With Glass being a notoriously poor insulator and rather acts as a conductor it’s suggested to place at least 1 or 2 digital thermostat / Hydrometer sensors inside the enclosure one on the hot side and one on the cool side (Govee is a good option for this). (Do not use anything that is adhesive or stick-on in the inside of the enclosure as it could stick to your snake and cause a ton of other problems)

Size of Enclosure

This part is generally up to you. But keep in mind Ball Pythons in most circumstances like to stay Hidden. So, make sure you have adequate “Clutter” in your PVC/TUB/GLASS Enclosure to allow your snake to hide themselves as they move around from one side to the other. You can give climbing opportunities as well. Cork Bark / Fake Foliage etc. are great options or even an additional Hide in the center... Or if you want you can start out Small for the enclosure and buy up as your snake grows (which is generally much more expensive).

Here are some basic suggested sizes based on the enclosure type. You can always get something larger to start with and just add clutter and hides to take up some of the additional space

PVC

A small 24”x12”x12” is good for a juvenile up to around 400 Grams

Medium 36”x18”x15” is good for Sub Adults and adults up to around 1200 Grams

Large 48”x 24” x 18” or larger for adults over 1200 Grams

Racks/Tubs

11-18 Quart: Hatchling – Sub adult up to around 600 Grams

21-35 Quart: Sub adult – Adults up to around 1200-1500 Grams

41-45 Quart: Adults 1500-3000 Grams

52 quart or larger: Generally, only needed for very large breeding females (though some males can get big)

Glass

10 gallon –Hatchlings up to around 400 g

20-25 gallon – Sub adults up to around 900 grams

40-45 gallon - (breeder tank) Adults up to around 1300 grams

75 + for - Adults above 1300 grams



Ball Python Care guide

This is a guide taking into consideration general husbandry needs for Ball Pythons. Note that this does not cover any bioactive types of setups as they will need additional items such as additional lighting and substrate variants to be taken into consideration for plant and isopods to survive.

Cohabitation is not suggested or recommended except if you are breeding. Ball Pythons are otherwise solitary animals and cohabitation only creates stress factors.

Feel free to contact us or view the electronic guide by visiting us on the web:

<https://pythonaddiction.com>



Heat

The general recommended hotspot for Ball Pythons is 88-90 Degrees with ambient temperatures in the hotspot area around 85-87.

The cool side should be around 80-85 Degrees.

These are recommended temperature ranges not exact temperatures. Variation a few degrees in either direction is fine. This means if your cool side is 79 Degrees, and your hot spot is at 88 you will be okay. Temperatures in the wild fluctuate so some flux in temperatures in captivity are acceptable

Humidity

Humidity levels 65-85% humidity, keeping it somewhere in the middle around 75-80 is a good middle spot.

Lighting

No colored bulbs of any kind (Red/Blue/Purple etc.). Many of the "Night" style bulbs marked for reptiles are not good as they flood the enclosure with infrared light which ball pythons can see with both their eyes and their heat pits. Using these types of bulbs can cause stress in various forms including affecting eating habits, circadian rhythm (day night cycle) and they can affect their eyes etc. A natural type light source is all that is needed though it is not actually necessary.

However, if you wish to offer artificial lighting, this can be supplemented with non-heat producing bulbs on a timer or on 12, off 12 cycles (or mimic the normal sunrise /sunset). (I use a smart plug on lights and set the routine for sunup / sundown).

UVB

Though Studies have shown so far that UVB is not necessary you can use a low UVB bulb (2.5 - 5) if you wish. It will not harm your Ball Python and could be used as the day light source if you wished.

Substrate Choices

Do not use any type of Dyed substrate or mulch / repti-carpet / pine, oak, maple bedding or other loose beddings such as soil or coconut dust / super small fiber etc. These substrates are either toxic or can lead to health issues such as impaction. It is also noted that Aspen is not recommended either as it is not good for holding in humidity and tends to mold very quickly.

Recommended bedding choices are those that hold in humidity well, unless you are in an extremely humid climate.

Coco Husk (Goes by various names Coco Block, repti Chip, including gardening versions that are 100% Coco Husk or Coco Choir), 100% Cypress Mulch are both acceptable for low humidity environments as they hold moisture well and do not rot/mold that quick.

For dryer climates aspen can be used but can mold quickly.

Alternatively, Paper Towels, Newspaper (printed or blank (ink is soy based so it is nontoxic)) can be used.



Other Things to Note

Lastly fresh water should always be available. If your water is safe to drink from the tap then it should not need to be treated, however, if it is not then filtered or bottled water is recommended. Some people use reverse osmosis water or distilled water. Water additives are generally not necessary. If your water is chlorinated public water and you have any concerns, you can draw water in advance and leave it out in an uncovered place and the chlorine will evaporate generally within 24 - 48 hours.

Other Items you will Need regardless of enclosure: Quality thermostat. Vivarium electronics, or Herpstat are top choices, but Ink Bird is also a good alternative in my opinion.

Enclosure Types

PVC Enclosures

Pros: Great at holding in Heat and Humidity at more steady levels, can be found on the secondhand market generally for less than buying brand new.

Cons: Expense. PVC enclosures can vary in price to several hundred dollars depending on supplier, and quality/size of PVC material used.

Hides: 2 hides are suggested with one on the warm side and another on the cool side. Can be large (Adult BP recommended Enclosure size minimum 4'x2'x18")

Heating options: Depending on style of enclosure can be heated from above with use of a Radiant Heat Panel or a Ceramic Heat Emitter. Or belly heated from below with appropriately sized and installed heat tape. All heat sources should be attached and regulated by a quality thermostat.

Setups can include both heating options if and where required.

Ball Python Feeding Guide



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Quantity	Recommended Feeders (Applies to both Live and Frozen Thawed)		Ball Python Weight (in grams)		Feeding Frequency	
	Type	Size	Male	Female	Pet Only	Breeding
1	Hopper Mouse	8-15g	First 3-5 meals*	First 3-5 meals*	Every 4-7 Days	Every 4-7 Days
1	Small Mouse	12-17g	Up to around 200g	Up to around 200g	Every 7 Days	Every 4-7 Days
1	Rat Fuzzy	10-19g				
1	Adult Mouse (Large)	17-32g	200 to 350g**	200 to 350g**	Every 7 Days	Every 7 Days
1	Rat Pup	20-29g				
1	Jumbo Mouse (EX Large)	33-50g	350 to 500g	350 to 500g	Every 7 Days	Every 7 Days
1	Weaned Rat	30-50g				
2-3	Adult Mice	17-32g (50-90g)	500g and over	500g to 1300g	Every 7 - 14 Days ***	Every 7 Days
1	Small Rat	50-95g				
1	Medium Rat	91-180g	Not necessary for most adult males	Over 1300g	Every 7-14 Days ***	Every 7-10 Days

* If you your hatchling is close too or over 100g you could offer rat fuzzy's right from birth

** This is where we suggest switching to rats

*** Once at an ideal weight you can stretch feeding period to maintain weight

NOTE: For Multiple Mice it is not suggested to feed them all at the same time, but to rather feed them over the course of the frequency range to allow for proper time for each rodent to start digesting. Feeding multiple in succession can lead to regurgitation in some cases.

This guide is designed to help establish and maintain a healthy weight for your Ball Python. The most common issue that is observed when it comes to feeding ball pythons is either under feeding or over feeding. Once to an Adult weight feeding frequency can be altered as noted in the chart to increase or decrease overall body mass. In general, you should never need a pray size larger than a Small Rat unless you are breeding Then Medium Rats are the largest you should ever need though you could stay with Small Rats at a shorter frequency. Keep in mind that Ball Pythons are opportunistic feeders so they may “seem” to be hungry even after that have just fed. Keep to the feeding schedule and you will have a happy and healthy snake.

Live Feeding VS Frozen Thawed

This is a debated topic and in many cases is a matter of preference and availability. It is suggested to research the Pros and Cons of both options and make an informed choice considering the options available to you. But keep in mind that it can be tricky to switch an established Adult from one to the other and that the best time to switch is while they are still young. We make every attempt at offering hatchlings both pray types once they have started to feed to help new owners to have a choice.