

# Shelf Life or Freezer Bait?

## Rehydrating Your Boilies - by Lee Pollard



It can be a hard decision when going overseas or even staying when fishing long sessions in the UK as to whether to go armed with freezer or shelf life bait. It can be a real nightmare if you roll up at the lake with 40kg of freezer bait and there is no freezer on site. Although a lot of anglers air dry their boilies I do think carp prefer a nice and soft, attractive baits rather than boilies that have dried out and are as hard as marbles.

I think a lot of anglers prefer freezer baits but with the CC Moore range the shelf life boilies are really no different; apart from a small amount of the liquid egg being removed and replaced with a fish-friendly food stabiliser, still giving you maximum flavour and fish pulling power. As long as the shelf lifes are kept cool and dry they won't go sticky or mouldy like freezer baits can if left in a sealed bag. However, after they have been opened they can also air dry easily due to their high quality soluble ingredients.

Here are a few tips on how to rehydrate baits and bring them back to life to give your shelf life or freezer baits attraction of the highest of level, making it easier for taking bait with you for the longer session - with no wastage.

Here are a few of the items I use when re-hydrating boilies

### Air drying freezer baits

- Air-dry the desired amount of bait for your session. 1-2 weeks of drying will ensure that each boilie goes rock hard and will not go off. Store them in the air drying bags, not sealed bags or buckets as they will sweat and go off.
- When you arrive at your venue take out enough bait for the session and place into a bag



- Add 50ml of Minamino or Feedstim to every half a kilo of boilies and leave for about 6-8 hours to soak up all the goodness. Do not add water to them at this stage as due to the high quality ingredients in CCM boilies you will struggle to use them as the baits will go to mush.

*(If you want to increase the attraction level for short session work, it is also worth adding some hot water into the mix to start the baits breaking down – these will then need to be spodded or boated out as they become very soft and mushy – leaking out lots of attractors.)*



- There you have it, rehydrated baits that are back to their rich colour and bursting with attraction.

#### **Air drying shelf life baits**



- Take the amount of bait you think you will need and spread thinly on cardboard or drying trays and leave to dry thoroughly for a week in the shed or garage. You will know when they are ready as they will be lighter in colour and slightly smaller in size.



- Place them in an air dry bag and remember to keep them out of any damp or direct sun light. Hopefully you will have enough bait to last you for your session!
- When you arrive at your venue take out a couple of kilos of bait and place into bucket and add 450ml of lake water. You can also use water from cooked hemp or the juices from cooked tiger nuts or even a combination for ultimate levels of fish nutrition.



- Next add 125ml of Feedstim, molasses or Minamino into the bucket. You can leave it to soak for up to a week but I find 6-8 hours sufficient. Don't use boilie dips for rehydrating baits due to their solvent base as this makes it difficult for baits to take them on board.



- When your baits are ready they will be much softer and give carp more encouragement to eat them. Just remember to do enough each day for the next day's fishing. Take enough fresh bait for the first 24 hours so that while your fishing first batch of 'rehydrates' are soaking up the liquids ready for use.

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I hope you can see the benefits to this tactic on how to utilise and store your bait more effectively on those long sessions whether using shelf life or freezer baits without needing a freezer or having to fish with marble-like boilies.

***Until next time***

***Lee Pollard***