

PRAWNS AND SHRIMP



SHRIMP

PRAWNS

Prawns are larger in size, and have larger legs with claws on three pairs and they have branching gills. Shrimp are smaller, have shorter legs and have claws only on two pairs and their gills are lamellar that means they have plate-like. Prawns and shrimp are both decapod crustaceans that means that they have exoskeletons and 10 legs. They can be found in salt water and fresh water all over the world, typically swimming in search of food. Both shrimp and prawns tend to stay near the ocean floor and they also have similar flavors, and come in a wide range of sizes from minuscule to quite large.

In commercial farming and fisheries, the terms shrimp and prawns are often used interchangeably, but of late, the term prawns only signify freshwater forms of palaemonids and shrimp for the marine penaeids.

In the United Kingdom, the word prawns are more common on menus than shrimp, while it's the opposite in North America. The term prawns are also loosely used to describe any large shrimp, especially those that come 15 or fewer to the pound such as king prawns, yet sometimes known as jumbo shrimp.

Australia, New Zealand and some other Commonwealth nations follow this British usage to an even greater extent, using the word prawns almost exclusively. When Australian comedian Paul Hogan used the phrase, I'll slip an extra shrimp on the barbie for you in an American television advertisement, it was intended to make what he was saying easier for his American audience to understand, and was thus a deliberate distortion of what an Australian would typically say.

In Britain very small crustaceans with a brownish shell are called shrimp, and are used to make potted shrimp and they are also used in dishes where they are not the primary ingredient.