

What's She Doing?

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Starters don't tell you what's wrong. Find what you're looking at, and what to do about it.

WHAT YOU SEE	WHAT IT MEANS	WHAT TO DO
Liquid on top, gray or brown	Hooch. She's hungry, and has been a while.	Pour it off or stir it in, then feed her as usual.
Smells like nail polish remover	Same thing as hooch, further along.	Feed at a bigger ratio. Twice a day for a few days.
Rose, then collapsed	Normal. You looked at the end of the cycle.	Nothing. Note her peak time and use her before it.
Not rising at all	Usually her age or a cold kitchen.	Under two weeks old, wait. Cold, move her somewhere warmer.
Doubled on day two, quiet since	A false rise. That wasn't yeast.	Keep feeding. Real activity returns around day 7 to 14.
Thin and runny	Past her peak, or too much water.	Feed by weight. Equal grams of flour and water.
Dry skin on the surface	She's just dried out on top.	Scrape it off or stir it in, then feed her.

Two times to throw her out

FUZZY GROWTH, ANY COLOR

Mold. Throw the whole thing out. Don't scrape it off and carry on.

PINK, ORANGE OR RED STREAKS

Bacterial contamination. Throw it out. Don't taste it, don't try to save it.

Still not sure what you're looking at? Describe it and she'll tell you. blessyourloaf.com