



WEB: www.ballpythons4africa.co.za
EMAIL: info@ballpythons4africa.co.za

CALL: 084 514 6686
FAX: 086 691 9822

HEAT

The temperature inside your ball python's enclosure should generally be around 27-29°C during the day, with a basking area that reaches 30-34°C. The temperature should be cooler at night, dropping to between 21-24°C. It is important that you maintain this day/night cycle. The supplemental heat can be provided through under-cage heating mats, and overhead ceramic heaters.

During the day, incandescent light bulbs of 75 watts or lower, with reflectors and protective wire cages can provide the higher temperature for basking. This should be placed at one end of the cage, so a temperature gradient can be achieved. Sturdy wooden branches can also be supplied, so the snake can choose how close to the heat source it wants to be, but not so close it could burn itself. The branches will also aid the snake during its shed. If necessary, an infrared bulb or room heater may be used to maintain the proper temperature at night.

Measure the temperature in several areas of the cage both during the day and at night using a quality thermometer ([see our products page](#)) to ensure you have the proper temperature gradient. Measure the temperature both under the basking light and near the floor of the cage. Providing a temperature gradient is crucial, as this allows the snake to thermo regulate (control its own body heat).

To maintain the proper temperature, it is best to have thermostats connected to the heat sources. The cage should be placed away from drafts or appliances which may put off heat. Remember to never place a glass cage in the direct sun.

LIGHT

"Day-light" or "full-spectrum" fluorescent lights will provide good lighting during the day. Unlike some reptiles, full spectrum lighting is not required, though it is still recommended.

During summer, your ball python should have a photoperiod of 12 hours of light and 12 hours of darkness, unless it's brumating, in which instance it should be 10 hours of light and 14 hours of darkness. The light can be slowly increased by 2 hours in the summer and decreased by 2 hours in the winter. Using a timer on the light will provide better control.

Keep in mind that your ball python is nocturnal (active at night). It is therefore essential that the light provided is only there to replicate a day/night cycle.