



Baby Eastern Painted Turtle Care Guide

Presented by Custom Creatures Pet Shop

Basic Info

Species: *Chrysemys picta picta* (Eastern Painted Turtle)

Lifespan: 20-30+ years

Adult Size: 4-7 inches (females larger)

Temperament: Active, social swimmers - can become tame with regular feeding

Best for: Beginner to intermediate aquatic turtle keepers

Enclosure Setup

Tank Size:

- Babies: Minimum 20-30 gallon tank
- Adults: 55-100+ gallon tank or outdoor pond
- Water depth should be 2-3x the turtle's length

Temperature & Heating:

- Water temp: 76-80°F (use submersible heater)
- Basking area: 88-92°F
- Ambient air temp: 75-80°F

Filtration & Water Quality:

- Strong filtration required (canister filters recommended)
- Perform partial water changes weekly (25-50%)

- Use dechlorinator for tap water

Lighting:

- UVB light required (T5 HO 5.0 or 10.0 above basking dock)
- Provide 12-hour light/dark cycle

Basking Platform:

- Floating or fixed dock fully out of water
- Easy access for climbing and drying off completely

Substrate (Optional):

- Bare bottom or smooth river rocks (no small gravel)
- Add driftwood and floating plants for enrichment

Diet & Feeding

Feeding Frequency:

- Babies: Feed daily
- Adults: Feed every other day

Diet:

- High-quality commercial turtle pellets
- Protein (2-3x/week): bloodworms, shrimp, crickets, worms
- Plant matter: duckweed, romaine, dandelion, anacharis
- Avoid fruit, iceberg, and spinach

Supplementation:

- Cuttlebone or calcium block in the tank
- Dust live insects with calcium occasionally

Water & Hydration:

- Turtles eat and drink in water
- Clean, warm water is essential to prevent illness

Handling & Behavior

Handling:

- Not recommended for frequent handling
- Can become tame over time but best left in water
- Always wash hands before and after contact

Behavior to Expect:

- Very active swimmers and baskers
- Diurnal and social with other turtles
- Will often recognize feeding times and swim to greet keepers

Supplies Checklist

- 20-30 gallon tank for hatchlings
- Submersible heater and digital thermometer
- UVB and basking bulbs
- Floating or fixed basking dock
- Canister filter or equivalent
- Water conditioner
- Turtle pellets, greens, and protein treats
- Cuttlebone or calcium block

Contact Us

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We're here to help!