



# Guide to Hatching Eggs



## Upon arrival:

Unbox eggs immediately following delivery and inspect eggs for any damage or cracks. We recommend candling eggs prior to incubating to ensure none are broken. Eggs should go into your incubator as soon as possible to ensure highest hatch rates.

## Incubation:

Incubators should be set up in locations at room temperature (65–80 degrees). Incubators should be tested for 48 hours prior to placing eggs inside, to ensure they are properly functioning. Please clean and sanitize your incubator prior to each use. Incubator temperature should be set to 100.0 °F. Chicken eggs take 20–22 days to hatch. If you are hand turning eggs, we recommend marking an “X” on one side of the egg, and an “O” on the other side of the egg to ensure they are turned adequately. Eggs need to be turned a minimum of 2–3 times a day, 4–5 is optimal. If placing eggs into an automatic egg turner, place eggs with the pointed side down. Some eggs will be difficult to tell which side is pointed. In that case, candle the egg. The air bubble side should be face up.

**Day  
1-9**

Humidity should be between 45–55%. Try your best to keep humidity constant to ensure best possible hatch rates.

**Day  
10**

Time to candle! Eggs that glow white with no obvious cell and veins are duds and should be tossed. Eggs that have a dark ring around the egg with no vein growth also are not viable and should be tossed. See pictures for reference.

**Day  
18**

It is time to “set” the eggs. Candling one last time is a good idea, you will be able to see movement in the chicks at this point in most eggs. Occasionally some eggs will stop growing mid incubation and will resemble a blob inside the egg instead of a chick, they should be tossed. If you are hand turning the eggs, please place the eggs on one side and leave in that position until after hatch. If the eggs are in automatic turners, please remove them from the turner and place them on their side in the incubator. The incubator’s humidity should be adjusted to 65%. The incubator should not be opened until the hatch is complete. We recommend waiting 24–48 hours after the first “pip” to ensure all eggs have the opportunity to hatch. Opening the lid early can dry out the inner liner of the egg to the chick and result in chick death.



10 day candling displaying growth.



10 day candling displaying no growth.



“Ring of death” No growth.



10 day candling displaying death after growth.



18 day candling showing growth, chick movement can be seen.



Now time to enjoy your new chicks! See chick care guide for further tips.

