

How to Raise Your Butterflies



Getting Started

Congratulations on receiving your cup of painted lady caterpillars! There should be 3-5 caterpillars, ¼ to 1 inch long, in the cup. Allow them 48 hours to become active. They will start growing within a few days.

Always remember to handle the cup of caterpillars **GENTLY**. Do not remove the plastic lid. It has airholes. Oxygen, plus the food on the bottom of the cup, is all the caterpillars need right now.

Place your cup of caterpillars in a warm spot, out of direct sunlight.

While growing, caterpillars may suspend themselves in gray-white webbing. The webbing is perfectly natural.

ON THE FIRST DAY: *Using a permanent marker, draw one caterpillar's size and shape on the outside of the plastic cup. When your caterpillars have grown to full size, you'll be amazed to see how small they once were!*

Chrysalis to Butterfly

When caterpillars are fully grown, they will crawl to the top of the cup, hang upside down, and change themselves into chrysalises.

Once they've all changed, wait two days and then transfer to their new butterfly house. Gently remove the plastic lid from their cup. Peel back the paper layer and lift it away from the cup. Your chrysalises should stay attached to the paper and hang freely. If one detaches from the paper, place it on the floor of your butterfly house, next to a wall.

Place the paper layer inside the butterfly house. Hang from a wall using a very strong piece of tape.



Butterflies will emerge from chrysalises in 7 to 10 days. It will take them an hour or two to dry their wings. Once they begin flying around the butterfly house, they are ready to be released.

You may keep your butterflies in their house for up to a week by providing them with food. Cut an orange in half and place on the floor of the butterfly house, cut side up. OR, using a small, shallow bowl, dissolve a teaspoon of sugar in a ½ cup of water. Place a paper towel over the bowl so that it touches and wicks up the sugar water. Butterflies can land on the paper and drink without getting their wings wet.

Time to release your butterflies outside! (Be sure temperatures are reaching at least 55 degrees during the day.) They will help pollinate trees, flowers and vegetables. They will also create eggs for a new generation of butterflies.