

Painted Lady Caterpillar Care

1. When your caterpillars arrive, remove any packaging materials and place in a low traffic area. **PLEASE DO NOT PLACE CATERPILLARS IN DIRECT SUNLIGHT (WINDOW SILL).** Each container has a paper liner in place for the chrysalis stage. To get a better look at the caterpillars as they are growing you can remove the paper liners temporarily. We recommend that you replace the paper when you clean out their waste so it's in place before they go into chrysalis. Be sure to keep the plastic lid on the containers, otherwise the food will dry out.
2. After 6 to 8 days, you **MUST** open each container and empty the waste to allow easy access to the food. The webbing can be removed as well. Most caterpillars will be attached to the lid, and you can remove the lid and easily shake the waste from the container. If the caterpillar is not on the underside of the lid, and is instead on the side of the cup, gently brush the caterpillar onto the lid and shake the waste from the cup. You can also use a Q-Tip or piece of paper towel to remove the waste.
3. When the caterpillars have developed to the chrysalis stage, they will attach themselves to the paper liner. Please allow at least 1 day for the chrysalis to harden before transferring them to the butterfly house. You can wait until all have reached chrysalis before transfer to the butterfly house.
- 4a. Once you're ready to suspend the chrysalis, clear a work area and lay the opened butterfly house horizontally on a table with the plastic side face down.
- 4b. OR, if you're working with an enclosure that doesn't have a plastic side, you can pin a piece of paper (or several, if necessary) to cover the ceiling. Use as many pins as you feel necessary to secure your paper ceiling.
5. To suspend the chrysalis, gently remove the lids of your caterpillar containers and scotch tape the paper liners (with attached chrysalis) to the plastic (or paper) surface of your butterfly house. Space each chrysalis approximately 2 inches apart and away from the sides. Once all are positioned, do up the zipper and gently turn over the butterfly house. Your chrysalis will now be hanging. We also recommend that you place a piece of paper under the house to catch any drops that will fall when the butterflies are emerging. In warm weather it's a good idea to mist the chrysalis each day to prevent them from having crimped wings when they emerge. The adult butterflies will emerge within 12 days, depending on temperature.
6. When the butterfly emerges, it will hang for several hours to dry its wings. Do not disturb them at this time. If you are feeding the butterflies with flowers, be sure to wash the flowers to remove pesticides. Alternatively, you can feed them with Gatorade (Orange) which has a composition similar to nectar. Pour 'nectar' into shallow containers and cover with netting to prevent them from falling in. If using a mesh butterfly house, you can also brush the sides of the house (mesh) with Gatorade. Mist with water each day.

Release butterflies on a warm day – 65 degrees Fahrenheit, or warmer.