

HATCH A TORTOISE

Instahatch Egg

Shipping Technique Guide



***Respect the egg, respect the tortoise inside the egg,
and trust the process.***

Tortoise/turtle eggs are not like avian eggs. They do not need to be rotated or turned every few hours. In fact, tortoise and turtle eggs shouldn't be moved at all from the moment they are placed into the incubator until it's time to ship the egg. The embryo attaches to the inner membrane of the egg. Once attached and the process of formation starts, an air sac is formed. If the egg is moved there is a chance the air sac can be disrupted, preventing the proper exchange of gases, like oxygen, which are vital for proper survival. The other concern is that the embryo will detach from the inner membrane and could die. Towards the end of incubation, when the embryo is essentially fully formed, there is an opportunity for the egg to be moved. Imagine a clutch of eggs, in an underground nest, starting to hatch. The hatchlings dig themselves out of the nest, disrupting the other eggs that haven't started to hatch yet. The eggs can be rearranged during this hatching process. This is where Tortstork's theory beholds the truth. The skill in shipping tortoise/turtle eggs is not properly shipping them, it's knowing when the proper time is to ship them. That skill comes with knowing your own data. Hatch rates vary from female to female. The amount of time it takes an egg to hatch varies from female to female and from species to species. The skill also comes down to knowing how to properly document the incubation period. Certain species take longer than others, so candling and monitoring their heart beat is key to your success.

Shipping a tortoise egg is easy if you follow this technique guide step by step. Tortstork has been collecting data on this process since 2016. To be honest, Tortstork experienced some dramatic failures in the beginning, but their vision, far off into the horizon, fueled the opportunity to continue trying. Those failures guided Tortstork to successfully shipping tortoise eggs. Tortstork ships tortoise/turtle eggs 10 days from its expected hatch date. This is based off of successful results from Tortstork's data.

Documenting this process is to help others properly and successfully ship a tortoise and turtle egg so others can happily welcome a baby tortoise into their life.

Tortstork's vision for shipping tortoise eggs is for conservation purposes. Reintroducing tortoises into their natural habitat is not something I personally do. I support conservation groups through donations, which is the extent of my involvement. My vision is for these major conservation groups to breed rare tortoises in captivity, incubate their eggs, ship them to their natural habitat, bury them in the ground, and allow them to naturally be introduced to their habitat. This limits human interaction, preventing any unnecessary bacteria/virus transfer into the wild, and it allows the tortoise to thrive on their own from day zero.

Please take the time to read the disclaimer below.

Tortstork is in no way saying this technique guide is the only way to ship a tortoise/turtle egg. Tortstork is in no way saying this is 100% the safest way to ship a tortoise/turtle egg. This technique guide is based off of Tortstork's personal data and success. The shipper assumes all risks in connection with shipping one or more tortoise/turtle eggs. Tortstork shall have no liability for any claims, causes of action, or the like arising at law or equity in connection with the shipping of tortoise/turtle eggs, and moreover, shall have no liability for incidental, consequential, and/or special damages; although it is the intent of the parties that Tortstork shall bear no liability, the parties further agree that Tortstork's liability is non-existent.

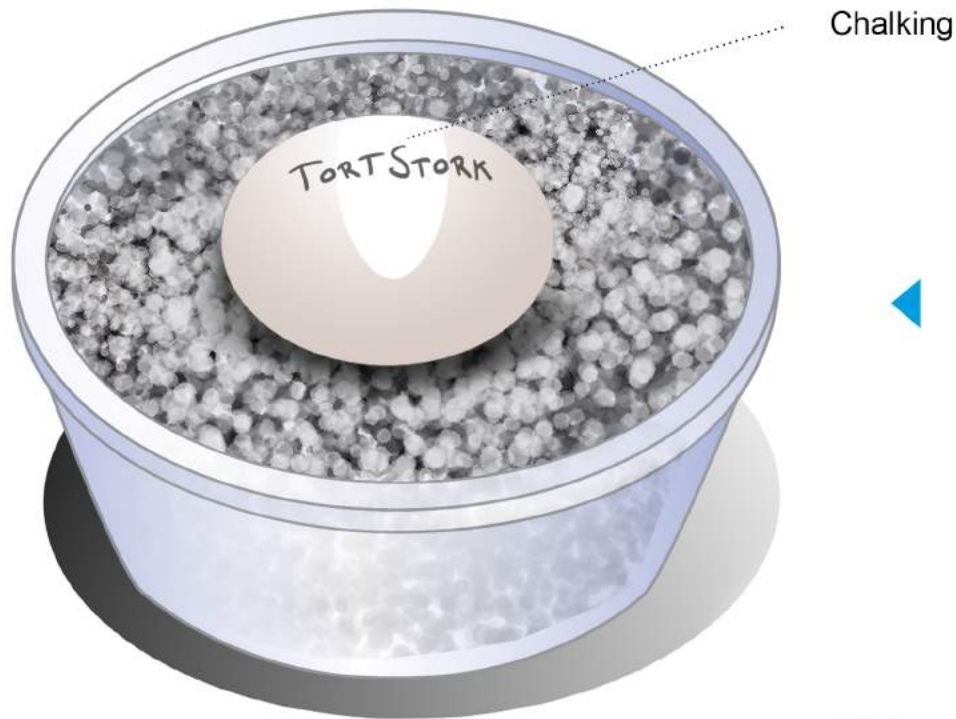
Supplies you need to properly ship a tortoise egg.

(Please note, if shipping more than one egg, there might be different supplies.
This technique guide is based around shipping one egg).

1. Small LED flashlight
2. Buddy Egg Monitor
3. 7x7x6 Styrofoam insulated box
4. 16 ounce pre-punched hole ddi cup with lid.
5. 40 hour heat pack
6. 3 pieces of classic white bread
7. Newspaper
8. Plastic sandwich bag
9. Incubation substrate
10. Welcome letter
11. Instahatch egg checklist
12. Packing tape

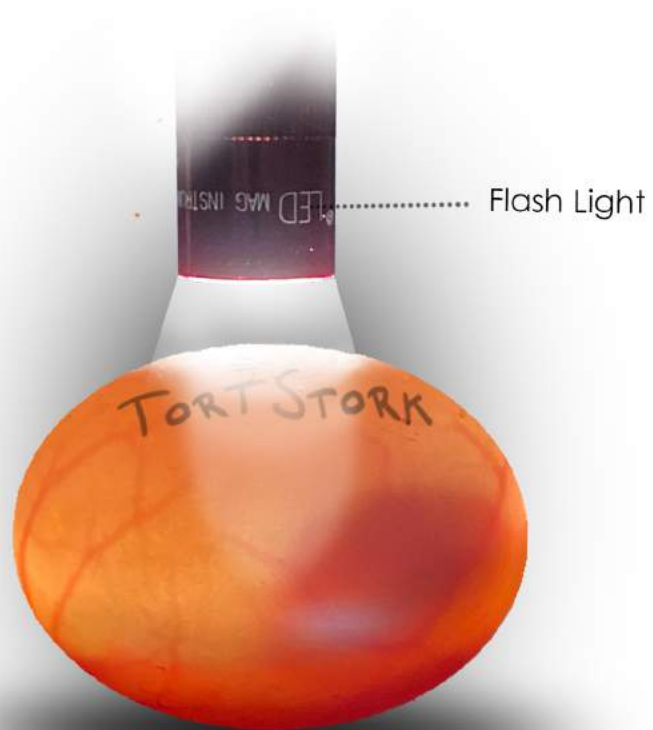


DOCUMENTING A FERTILE TORTOISE/TURTLE EGG



Document the date the tortoise/turtle egg starts to chalk

By candling document the date the tortoise/turtle egg starts showing veins





10 days prior to expected hatch date,
place tortoise/turtle egg onto the Buddy Egg Monitor
and document the heart rate via picture and/or video,
which can be sent to the buyer.

Place one piece of
classic white bread
on the bottom of a 16 ounce
pre-punched deli-cup

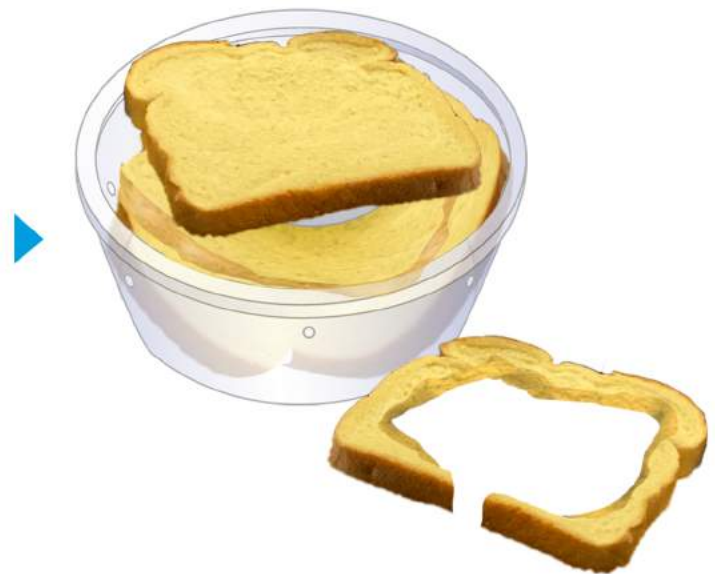


Remove the crust off a slice
of classic white bread and place
the crustless slice on top of
the slice already in the deli-cup.



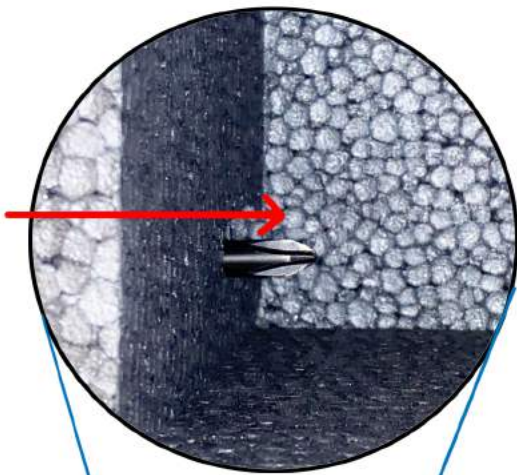
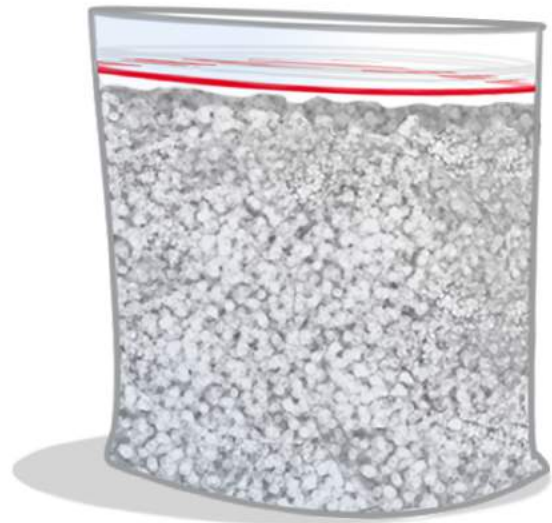
Carefully place the tortoise/turtle egg in the center of the crustless slice of bread. Make sure the egg is in the same position as it was in during incubation; top of the egg facing up.

Place the remaining slice of classic white bread on top of the egg. Carefully mold the edges of the bread to the slice below. Be careful NOT to mold the bread around the actual egg, as you need to leave a little space for oxygen exchange.



Place the remaining crust on top of the slice of bread in the deli-cup and place the lid on

Fill a plastic sandwich bag with incubating substrate.



Make holes on all 4 sides of the box, making sure the holes go through the box and styrofoam



Place three sheets of newspaper in the box, carefully place the deli-cup in the newspaper



Carefully fold the newspaper over the deli-cup. Place the sandwich bag full of substrate in one corner of the box.

Sandwich bag with substrate



Heat pack

Tape the heat pack onto the inside styrofoam lid, making sure the red strip is visible.

*Please note, open the heat pack 30 minutes prior to shipping to confirm it is properly warming up.



Place your information welcome letter on top of the lid so it is the first thing the buyer sees when opening the box. A letter explaining the steps to properly unpack the tortoise/turtle egg is very important for the success of hatching the egg.



Welcome letter

Welcome letter



Thank you for supporting Tortstork!! Please gently unpack your Instahatch egg. Be very careful, as the bread tends to mold to the egg. Remove the top layer of bread, place it next to the deli cup on a flat surface. Remove the egg and place it on the top layer. Remove all the remaining bread. Pour the incubation substrate in the deli cup. Make a thumb imprint into the substrate for your egg. Place your egg on the substrate, with the writing facing upwards. Place it in the incubator. In the event your egg arrives hatching, place the hatching tortoise in the deli cup with warm damp paper towels, and place in the incubator.

Things to keep in mind:

1. Be patient and understanding that it may take a few days for your new Instahatch egg to start to pip.
2. Continue to monitor the temperature and humidity levels. (88/89F & 60-80% humidity).
3. Read the Instahatch egg care guide that you received in your email.
4. NEVER assist your tortoise from hatching. This process could take 24-72 hours.
5. Email me your tortoise's hatch date and name, I will send you a hatch (birth) certificate, electronically.

If you are up for it, please do the following things:

1. Follow us on Instagram @tortstork and post a picture of your new egg, tag us and use #tortstork.
2. Tortstork will send you a follow up email, asking you to submit a review. It would be so kind if you would please take the few moments to express your excitement. Reviews help out so much.
3. Feel free to share the good word about Tortstork any where you want.
4. We are here to support you and your tortoise. Please contact us with any questions and/or concerns. tortstork@tortstork.com or call 215.840.5240.

Warmest Regards,
Randy Betz, JR.
Founder and Owner of Tortstork



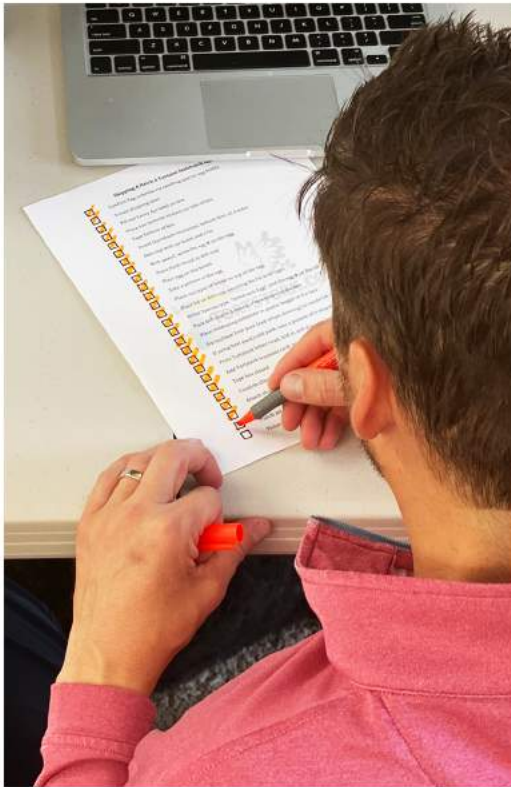
Make sure the shipping box is properly labeled to let the shipping company know the box contains a live animal.


Box -Bottom view

Make sure you properly label
the bottom of the box
in case the box is
accidental upside down



Send the buyer tracking information as well as the Hatch A Tortoise Instahatch Care Guide
so they are prepared prior to delivery.




 Create a checklist with all the steps for shipping a tortoise/turtle egg. Check off all the steps prior to sending off the egg to the shipping company.

Shipping A Hatch A Tortoise Instahatch Egg	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Confirm Egg is fertile via candling and/or egg buddy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Create shipping label
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fill out Lacey Act label on box
<input type="checkbox"/>	Place live tortoise stickers on side of box
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tape bottom of box
<input type="checkbox"/>	Insert Styrofoam Insulation; bottom then all 4 sides
<input type="checkbox"/>	Deli-cup with air holes and a lid
<input type="checkbox"/>	With pencil, write the egg # on the egg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Place fresh bread in deli-cup
<input type="checkbox"/>	Place egg on the bread
<input type="checkbox"/>	Take a picture of the egg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Place top layer of bread on top of the egg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Place lid on deli-cup, ensuring the lid is on tight
<input type="checkbox"/>	Write Species type, "Instahatch Egg", and the egg # on the lid
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pack deli-cup in 2 sheets of newspaper in the box
<input type="checkbox"/>	Place incubating substrate in plastic baggie in the box
<input type="checkbox"/>	Zip tie/tape heat pack (red stripe showing) to inside lid of Styrofoam
<input type="checkbox"/>	If using heat pack/cold pack, take a picture of it attached to inside lid
<input type="checkbox"/>	Print Tortstork letter head, fold it, and place on top of Styrofoam lid
<input type="checkbox"/>	Add Tortstork business card, sticker and/or magnet
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tape box closed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Confirm client's name, shipping address and tortoise match
<input type="checkbox"/>	Attach shipping label
<input type="checkbox"/>	place "LIVE HARMLESS TORTOISE EGG" sticker on top of box
<input type="checkbox"/>	Punch air holes on all 4 sides of the box
<input type="checkbox"/>	Picture of the label, Lacey act label and air holes