



HUMBUG FARMS

~ celebrate life ~

Santa Barbara, CA
www.humbugfarms.com
(805) 964-0727



INSTRUCTIONS on CARING FOR YOUR BUTTERFLIES

1. YOUR BUTTERFLIES WILL BE SHIPPED OVERNIGHT

Your butterflies are usually shipped to arrive the day before your event. They have traveled safely inside of their individual boxes because they have been packed in an insulated container with icepacks. Feel free to open the box and take a peek, but close it up with tape again for overnight keeping.

2. DAY & NIGHT BEFORE: KEEP THEM COOL AND KEEP THEM IN THE DARK

Low temperatures (between 40 - 55 degrees) and complete darkness will keep the butterflies inactive.

Keep them in their shipping container in a cool, dark place such as a closet. This is usually all that is required. (Note: Do not refrigerate overnight – modern refrigerators tend to be too dry.)

However, during hot weather seasons, a little extra cooling can help. Placing a towel and a plastic bowl of ice over the box works very well. Don't worry -- the cool and darkness are their preferred conditions for resting.



Arrival the day before



A towel provides shade and absorbs condensation



Ice on top keeps the box cool



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INSTRUCTIONS for RELEASING BUTTERFLIES

(OPTION #1 : Individual Triangle Boxes)



1. EVENT DAY: KEEP THEM COOL

If you are releasing the butterflies from their individual boxes, there's not much more to do. They can be kept in the same container and conditions as overnight until about one hour before the release.

2. EVENT DAY: LET THEM START TO WARM UP APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR BEFORE RELEASE

Please note that the butterflies will warm up faster in warmer weather, so use your judgement. Contained butterflies should be kept out of direct sunlight, especially during those hot spring and summer days.

Simply take the small triangle boxes out of the shipping container and place them somewhere at or above 60 degrees. Place them in the shade or any area with filtered sunlight.

3. RELEASE

Remember, the warmer it is, the sooner the butterflies will be ready to fly. Once they are warm, there is a large window of time to let them out, so don't worry. Often a butterfly will sit for several seconds, gently moving it's wings to absorb the sun's energy before taking flight. When the time is right during your celebration, have the participants open the release boxes and enjoy the sight!



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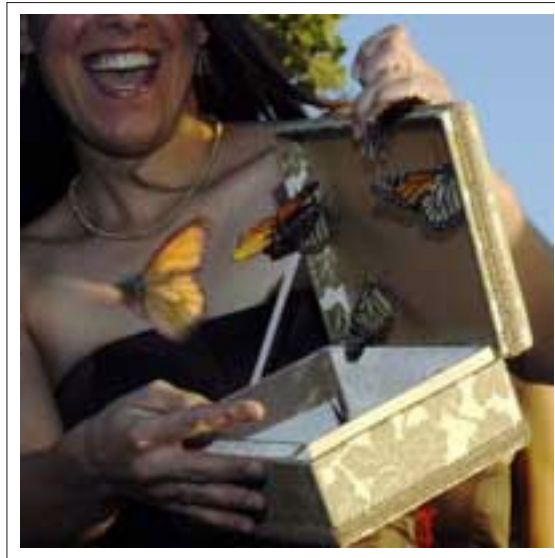
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "INDIVIDUAL RELEASE" and "MASS RELEASE" ?

There are two common ways to release butterflies. They can be released individually, by several participants, directly from the small triangular boxes they are shipped in. Or they can be released all together from a large decorative box.

If you choose to release them individually, no extra handling is required (refer to OPTION #1). If you prefer to do a mass release, follow the additional instructions below.

INSTRUCTIONS for PREPARING BUTTERFLIES for MASS RELEASE

(OPTION #2 : Mass Release from One Large Box)



1. HAVE A SUITABLE BOX

There's no exact size requirement. Monarch butterflies naturally cluster close together in the wild. A box the size of an average shoebox is about right for up to three dozen butterflies. The box should not be airtight.

2. DECIDE WHEN TO DO THE TRANSFER

If you are transferring them into a net cage or sheer cloth box (where sunlight can reach them), we recommend that you do this no more than an hour or two before the event. If you are using an opaque release box, you can do the transfer the evening before, or the morning of the event. After transfer, keep the box in a cool, dark place (such as a basement or closet).

3. COOL THEM DOWN 30- 45 MINUTES BEFORE THE TRANSFER

Place the shipped triangle boxes (or envelopes) containing the butterflies into a normal household-type refrigerator (NOT the freezer!) for 30-45 minutes before the transfer. Don't worry. This will cool them down and naturally cause them to become groggy enough for transfer. They are hardy little creatures and will fully wake up when they are warm again.

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INSTRUCTIONS for PREPARING BUTTERFLIES for MASS RELEASE

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4. FOLLOW THESE TRANSFER STEPS...IT'S EASY!

- A) Make sure your hands are clean and dry.
- B) Remove the triangle boxes (or envelopes) from the refrigerator, and take them with the release box into a small room with low ceilings (a bathroom is perfect). Remember to shut the doors and windows.
- C) Working steadily and quickly, pick up each triangle box (or envelope) and hold it just inside the large release box. Open it and let the butterfly slide out onto the bottom of the release box. If you need to touch one, that is fine, but be gentle. As they warm up, the butterflies will start fluttering their wings and flopping about. This is normal. Keep up your work until all the butterflies are transferred, then quickly close the release box.
- D) You should be able to transfer all the butterflies with no escapees. However, should a butterfly escape during the transfer process, you will need to recapture it. No problem. Handling the butterfly gently will not harm it. Butterflies are attracted to light, so the escapee will probably fly towards the brightest light source. Simply pick it up with the wings closed, by its wings, close to its body. Alternatively, you can cup your hands around the escapee and transfer it to the box.

5. KEEP THEM COOL UNTIL APPROXIMATELY ONE BEFORE RELEASE

Once they are in the large box, store it in a cool, dark place such as a closet. You may want to keep the cold ice packs near or under the box to help keep the temperature down until one hour before the release. For transporting to the event site, an ordinary cooler is helpful, especially on very hot days.

6. **EVENT DAY:** PLACE THE RELEASE BOX IN ITS FINAL LOCATION 20-60 MINUTES BEFORE THE RELEASE

Please note that the butterflies will warm up faster in warmer weather, so use your judgement. Contained butterflies should be kept out of direct sunlight, especially during those hot spring and summer days.

Remember, the warmer it is, the sooner the butterflies will be ready to fly. Once they are warm, there is a large window of time to let them out, so don't worry. When the time is right during your celebration, open the release box and enjoy the sight!