



Sanitation of Incubator and Equipment

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After the hatch has been completed, the incubator box and tray should be brushed clean of all debris and dust. The cleaned surfaces should be wiped thoroughly with a cloth dampened in quaternary ammonium, chlorox, or other disinfectant. Follow the directions of the manufacturer carefully.

1. Clean the incubator immediately after using.

- Remove all loose shells and dry matter.
- Clean egg tray and water pans
 - Soak in warm water with mild bleach or disinfectant, if necessary.
 - Scrub off all adhering dirt with brush.
- Wipe plastic clean with soft cloth and glass cleaner.
- Clean bottom of incubator
 - DO NOT use chemical cleaners. Some chemical cleaners will melt Styrofoam. Many plastic and foam bottoms will absorb the chemicals, which may kill the embryos in the future.
 - Soak in a warm 25 percent bleach/water solution and wipe clean with a cloth.
 - You can scrub most plastic bottoms with a brush.
- Cleaning the heating element and other electrical units.
 - DO NOT touch or get the element wet.
 - Brush wafers gently with a soft brush to remove the dust.

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2. Store the incubator in a protective carton.

3. Store the incubator in a cool dry location.

4. Prevent excessive movement. Each time the incubator is moved, it increases the chance of the element or wafers being damaged.

Salmonella Safety

Recommendations to teachers and others who use the Incubation and Embryology program and to others who are concerned about this problem.

- ▶ Limit the periods during which children are allowed to handle the baby birds. After each handling session, be sure that the children wash their hands well with warm water and soap. For children and adults alike, this is a good practice to follow after petting or handling any animal or bird.
- ▶ Keep human food and beverages away from the project area during incubation and hatching or when the birds are in the schoolroom.
- ▶ Use eggs from flocks that have been tested under the National Poultry Improvement Plant (NPIP). These flocks are monitored and certified free of the following Salmonella: pullorum, gallinarum and enteritidis. Salmonella enteritidis is one of the strains of the bacteria that causes food borne illness in humans. Flocks monitored by the NPIP also comply with cleanliness and sanitation guidelines provided by the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.
- ▶ Incubate clean eggs. Do not incubate eggs that are heavily stained or that have dirt adhered to them.
- ▶ Thoroughly wash and disinfect the incubator before incubating the eggs.
- ▶ Keep the birds' food and water clean by feeding only the amount the birds will eat in one day. Carefully clean food and water containers and provide fresh food and water daily.

Information compiled by: Kristen Park, Poultry Extension Specialist, Dept. of Animal Science and Donna Scott, Extension Associate (Food & Safety), Dept. of Food Science.