



## Painted Lady Butterfly Care Instructions

1. Your caterpillar will live happily, in its plastic vial for 7-10 days. It will eat its ground nettle and produce a waste called “frass.”
2. Once your caterpillar moves to the top of the vial and attaches itself to the lid it is ready to shed its skin for the last time and form a chrysalis.
3. After you see the chrysalis, it is time to make a temporary house for your butterfly. Cut a hole in the side of the box and cover it with plastic wrap so you can see the metamorphosis occur. Or, use a portable insect and butterfly house, which may be purchased at Botanica.
4. Carefully remove the lid from the plastic vial and hang it from the top of a cardboard box with a piece of tape.
5. In 7-10 days, your painted lady butterfly will emerge, crawl around and dry its wings. You may see a few drops of red fluid called meconium, which normally drips from the chrysalis as the butterfly emerges.
6. Your butterfly will be ready to fly within a few hours. Feed it sugar and water (2 tbsp. sugar to 1 cup of water) dropped on real flowers or soak a cotton ball in the sugar solution and place it in the box.
7. Observe your butterfly for no more than 2 days and release it outside to its natural habitat when the temperature consistently averages 55-60 degrees.

**PLEASE NOTE:** We are responsible for selling the best live caterpillar we can. You are responsible for the caterpillar after it leaves Botanica. We cannot accept returns, exchanges or give any guarantees.



Botanica Gift Shop & Greenhouse  
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