

How to Transfer Your Butterflies

1. **2 to 3 hours prior to the release** take the butterflies out of their original shipping container (while the ice packs are still cold). The butterflies need to be cool while transferring. If necessary, it is OK to place butterflies while in their opened shipping box into a refrigerator for 10 to 15 minutes to help them chill. **DO NOT FREEZE.**

2. Take the cooled container (box) into a small room (a bathroom or large closet is perfect), set at standard room temperature and then close the door. Take the butterflies out of the cooled container one package at a time.

3. Take each envelope and slip inside the box just under the lid. Try to keep the lid on as much as possible to avoid butterflies “slipping out!” Open the envelopes with the butterflies in it upside down and allow the butterflies to simply slide out of the transfer envelope into the box. It generally takes about 10 minutes per dozen to complete this job for an untrained “butterfly wrangler.”

Note - you should be able to transfer all the butterflies into your box with no escapees. However, should a butterfly escape during the transfer process, you will need to recapture it. Butterflies are attracted to light, so the escapee will likely fly toward a window or other source of light in the room. Simply pick it up by the wings (which will be closed). Alternately, you can cup your hands around the escapee if the wings aren't closed and transfer it to the box. Despite what you've always been told, handling a butterfly gently will not harm it.

Storage until release time is fairly simple. The most important thing to consider is to avoid letting them get too warm. Do not leave your butterflies in direct sunlight or prolonged exposure to high heat such as parked cars or hot patios. Keep them indoors at a cool-room temperature and place in an area where the butterflies will be free from being bumped or jolted. You may even place the mass release box (with the butterflies in them) back inside of a cooler or the cooled shipping container. But, give them at least 1 hour to warm up in order to be active enough to fly away quickly. (See Butterfly Instructions Document for release preparation instructions.)

