



Brinsea

Incubation Specialists



If you're looking for help choosing an incubator, we suggest you read the following guide:

Selecting the right incubator, brooder and accessories for your particular hatching needs can be a challenge. You need to consider the number of eggs you want to incubate, whether you want to turn your eggs by hand or have automatic turning and what level of humidity control you want. When buying an incubator you are choosing the chance of your eggs hatching. The better the incubator, the better the chance each egg will hatch.

There are lots of people selling incubators on various platforms such as websites, eBay, Amazon to name a few. Not all of the incubators on sale, particularly on reselling sites, are going to be safe, reliable machines. Check to see what guarantee you get before you buy. Not all of the sellers will offer you help and support if something goes wrong. It's important to buy the most reliable machine that you can to give your eggs the best chance of hatching, and it's important to have support and back-up from the seller if you need help from them.

Why is electrical safety so important when buying an incubator?

Egg incubators involve mains electricity, heating and water and are used in the home, sometimes by children and these factors mean a poorly designed incubator can pose particular hazards, UK Trading Standards' have an ongoing investigation into unsafe imported incubators.

There are a few things to look for when buying an incubator which should raise concerns:

- Price. A product that is selling significantly below the market average should set alarm bells ringing. Everyone loves a bargain, but no-one wants their fingers burnt – literally.
- Don't assume a CE mark on the product means it is safe. A CE mark can be applied to an unsafe product by a manufacturer as it is the importer into the EU that is responsible for electrical safety – although some may not be aware of this.
- Look for a manufacturer's address on the product or instructions. Alarm bells ring for Trading Standards when a manufacturer or importer can't be traced from its product. If the product is unbranded or is a brand that you don't recognise then do an internet search for the manufacturer.
- If there is no English language website for the manufacturer with full contact information be suspicious.
- Product instructions should include warning of electrical safety hazards and recycling symbols – if these are absent, the language is imprecise and badly translated then the product doesn't comply with EU regulations and may be dangerous.
- Is the distributor/seller contactable by phone and do they give a full trading address? Do they specialise in incubators or are they selling lots of other unrelated products - if so, this should set alarm bells ringing!
- What is their returns policy? Reputable distributors will have this information readily available, if not, be suspicious.

If you have bought an egg incubator recently which you are concerned about please contact your local Trading Standards Office – and the supplier you purchased the incubator from, informing them of Trading Standards' on-going investigation into unsafe egg incubators.

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