



Brinsea
Incubation Specialists



Using the EcoGlow Safety Chick Brooder

The EcoGlow chick brooder is designed to be extremely economical to use, especially for a small number of birds. A typical heat lamp runs at 250 watts compared with 12 watts consumption for the EcoGlow Safety 600. When you consider that the brooder is on 24/7, this is an important saving.

To get the best use from this low power unit it is important to understand that there is no big margin of 'spare' heat and some precautions need to be taken depending on the ambient temperature in the room, and on the age and number of chicks –and the size or species. The EcoGlow Safety brooders are for indoor use only and the room temperature should not drop below 10° C (50° F). Your EcoGlow Safety should be located in an area free from draughts and chicks should be provided with plenty of bedding.

First, it is better to have the unit on a lower height setting, if in doubt. The chicks will move away from the EcoGlow if they are too warm. If brooding very young quail or very small numbers of any small birds, it is a good idea to confine them in a cardboard box at least twice the size of the EcoGlow, put the brooder against one side of the box so that the birds can only enter on the other side. This conserves warmth under the brooder but still allows birds to move freely out into the open as they wish. Another useful trick is to put the whole box on a slab of 1" polystyrene to reduce heat loss from the bottom.

In an extreme case, it can be useful to remove the legs from one end of the EcoGlow Safety so that it rests directly on the floor. The other end is best at a middle or higher position. This gives very small birds to option to touch the warm surface or adjust their position for maximum comfort.

Because the heat from the black underside of the EcoGlow Safety is largely radiant, measuring the temperature with a thermometer is of little value. Radiant heat passes through air without warming it. Only a solid object will absorb and be warmed by radiant heat. So, a thermometer will register the air temperature but not the radiant heat and will usually show at least 3 to 6°C lower than the effective temperature felt by the chicks. Always watch the behaviour of the birds. They will naturally huddle together if they are cool. The more of them, the less external warmth they need.

For larger numbers of birds, EcoGlow Safety brooders can be assembled side by side. Above four units, it is probably better to leave a gap between units for birds to exit freely.