

Chicken Egg Incubation Chart

Day 1 to hatch. Tick each day as you go. Dates for any set date or species at flockmath.com/calculator/incubation-calendar/

TEMPERATURE 99.5°F forced-air	HUMIDITY, DAYS 1–18 50–55%	HUMIDITY, LOCKDOWN 65–75%
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Day	What's developing inside	What you do	✓
1	First resemblance to an embryo (16 h). Alimentary tract (18 h), vertebral column (20 h), nervous system (21 h), head (22 h), eye (24 h).	Turn 3–5×	
2	Heart begins (25 h). Ear begins (35 h). Heart beats (42 h).	Turn 3–5×	
3	Nose (60 h), legs (62 h), wings (64 h).	Turn 3–5×	
4	Tongue begins.	Turn 3–5×	
5	Reproductive organs form and sex differentiates.	Turn 3–5×	
6	Beak begins.	Turn 3–5×	
7	—	Turn 3–5× · Candle	
8	Feathers begin.	Turn 3–5×	
9	—	Turn 3–5×	
10	Beak begins to harden.	Turn 3–5×	
11	—	Turn 3–5×	
12	—	Turn 3–5×	
13	Scales and claws appear.	Turn 3–5×	
14	Embryo moves into position for breaking the shell.	Turn 3–5× · Candle	
15	—	Turn 3–5×	
16	Scales, claws and beak becoming firm and horny.	Turn 3–5×	
17	Beak turns toward the air cell.	Turn 3–5×	
18	—	Final candle , then stop turning	
19	Yolk sac begins to enter the body cavity.	Lockdown — no turning, no opening	
20	Yolk sac completely drawn into the body cavity. Embryo fills the egg except the air cell; the chick pierces the air cell and starts breathing air.	Lockdown — no turning, no opening	
21	Hatch.	Leave the lid shut	

Days marked — carry no milestone in the published list. The day-by-day sequence comes from A. L. Romanoff, Cornell University Extension Bulletin 205, which names fifteen distinguishing events across the 21 days. Growth is continuous; the gaps are left empty rather than filled with detail the source does not support.