



BATHING A TORTOISE

Bath your tortoise once a week for adults and twice a week for young tortoises.

Just because you do not see it drink, does not mean it is a waste of time. Tortoises can take in water via the rear end without you even knowing!

Container

Use a shallow tray, kitchen sink bowl or indeed the kitchen sink itself!
If the tortoise appears not to enjoy his bath it may be because he feels boxed in.
Try a shallower container.

Timing

If possible bath mid morning. Give your tortoise time to warm up first.
Choosing mid morning allows him to dry thoroughly before bedtime.

Try to get him to stay in for at least 5 minutes but if he gets distressed then obviously bring him out.

Water

Use tepid water. ADD NOTHING TO IT. Expensive products advertised to add to the water are a waste of money and can, in fact, block the pores and attract flies if left to dry on.

Depth

Use just enough to bring the water level with the plastron (underneath part of shell), so that the water slightly laps under the chin. Then from a separate jug of tepid water, let water trickle through your fingers to replicate rain. Using this method make sure the shell, limbs (including the head) are wet. Any deposits on the shell can be removed using a soft toothbrush.

Drying

Paper towel (kitchen roll) is recommended and immediately disposed of.

Aftercare

Use this opportunity to look around the body and make sure all is in order.
(Refer to 'How to Gauge your Tortoise's Health').

During hot weather especially, your tortoise may enjoy being sprayed with tepid water using an indoor plant mister. Do not be tempted to use one that may have been used to spray plant food. They are relatively cheap, so buy one especially to use for your tortoise.