Can I touch the eggs with my hands?

Let’s look at some Facts.

Egg shells are porous and touching the **eggs** can cause bacteria from the fingers to enter through the shell and kill the chick inside.

The hen regulates the temperature within the nest to keep the **eggs** at a constant temperature. The tip of our fingers is one of the coldest parts of our bodies. By touching the **eggs** we can chill them.

The hen constantly turns the **eggs** to make sure the chick develops correctly. She also moves the **eggs** from the centre to the outside of the clutch. By touching and lifting the **eggs** this action is disturbed.

So lifting and constant inspection of **eggs** really is not recommended.

I inspect every nest box in the morning and afternoon. In regard to **eggs**, I will mark a newly laid egg with a non toxic water base pen, the nest and **number** of the laid egg. Eg B9.7. If the egg is in a large clutch I will move /foster to a smaller clutch. I will no longer touch that egg. I will candle the egg as it lies in the nest box with out disturbing it. If after the correct period of time, I see that the egg has not developed (clear). It will be removed and disposed of.

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