



The Egg Carton's True Origin

How one broken basket in Canada gave eggs their safest home yet.

Eggs Broke For Centuries

For generations, farmers carried eggs to market piled loose in open baskets. Many arrived cracked or leaking long before they reached a kitchen.

Source: [British Columbia Magazine](#)

A Hotel Argument in 1911

In 1911 a farmer named Gabriel Lacroix delivered eggs to the Telkwa Hotel in British Columbia and found many broken, sparking a furious row with the innkeeper.

Source: [Bulkley Valley Museum](#)

The Editor Who Fixed It

Local newspaper editor Joseph Coyle overheard the argument and sketched a fix: a rectangular carton with a cushioned slot cradling every single egg.

Source: [Bulkley Valley Museum](#)

A Patent in 1918

Coyle began hand crafting his egg cartons around 1915, and on 15 January 1918 Canada granted patent number 181662 for the design jointly to Coyle and provincial agriculture inspector Frederick Dundas Todd.

Source: [Bulkley Valley Museum](#)

One Idea, Millions of Cartons

The carton spread to factories in Vancouver, Chicago and Los Angeles, and the same idea, a cushioned slot for every egg, is still how most eggs are packed worldwide.

Source: [British Columbia Magazine](#)

IN SHORT

A century after one broken basket, that same simple carton still keeps every yolk safe on its way to a Multan breakfast table.

References

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