

MADISON FIELDS

What's in a Chicken Coop?

Chickens are fairly easy to take care of and provide a lot of love (and delicious eggs!) for the people who keep them. But there are several things to consider when you own chickens, and a healthy, safe living environment is essential! Here are some factors to consider when setting up a chicken coop:

Coop Security:

One of the big advantages to cooped chickens (rather than free-range) is that the coop provides a safe place for your chickens to roam. It is vital to ensure that your coop is predator-proof (or as close to predator-proof as you can get!), so that carnivorous animals (such as badgers, foxes, cats, and hawks) cannot gain easy access to your chickens. A coop must protect your chickens from the sides but also from the top.

When looking at the chicken wire or wire mesh of chicken coops, it's best to go for at least 10mm by 10mm or smaller to prevent any type of unwanted visitor finding their way into your hen's home.

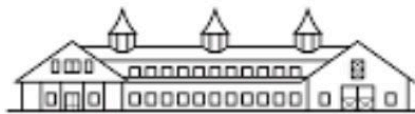


Coop Ventilation:

An ideal chicken coop will need to provide enough ventilation to prevent your chickens from developing any type of respiratory disease. Proper ventilation allows ammonia from chicken droppings to disperse, keeping it from accumulating and causing a toxic gas, which can cause respiratory issues for you and your chickens. Proper ventilation is also important to keep a balanced temperature in the coop. Ventilation can be created through a window covered in mesh, or a metal vent installed in the wall of your coop. An exhaust fan can also be used to help circulate the air in the coop.

Coop Cleanliness:

Chickens are naturally messy creatures, but cleanliness is easily handled if you get the right coop. Removable floor trays and easy to clean perches are a must-have. Regular cleaning of the coop is important for the health and happiness of your chickens. A good rule to live by is making sure you give your coop a thorough clean (power wash, new bedding) once a month and a small clean out (emptying poop trays, mucking) once a week.



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Coop Perches:

When it comes to height, your coop should be large enough to provide roosting perches. This is where your chickens will sleep. Ideally, roosting perches should be about 5cm in width and should have rounded edges for natural grip. Allow enough space on your roosting perches for each chicken to have a minimum of eight to ten inches of space.



Coop Nesting Boxes:



Make sure your chicken coop has a sufficient number of nesting boxes. You should have one nesting box for every four chickens in your flock. The nesting boxes will need to be raised a few inches from the ground or coop floor. Most hens prefer for their nesting boxes to be somewhat dark and out of the way, so this is something to consider if you do not want reluctant egg-layers!

What would make this the PERFECT Chicken Coop?

Directions: Look at the picture of the empty chicken coop! Think about the health and safety of our chickens at Madison Fields. What makes this a good chicken coop? What could make it an even BETTER chicken coop??

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