



Chicken Coop Sizing Checklist (for Beginners)

1. Coop & Run Sizing

- 3-4 sq. ft. per standard hen (indoor coop space)
- 6-8 sq. ft. per large-breed hen (e.g., Brahma, Orpington)
- 8-10 sq. ft. per chicken in the outdoor run
- More space = happier, healthier birds
- Enough vertical space for roosts and airflow

2. Features & Layout

- 1 nesting box per 4-5 hens
- Nesting boxes in darker, private corner
- 8-12 inches of roost space per chicken
- Roosts elevated at least 2 ft. off the floor
- Vents high on coop walls (no direct drafts)
- Cross-ventilation in warm climates
- Walk-in access or large access doors
- Clean-out tray or removable floor
- 1/2" hardware cloth on all openings
- Covered run (roof or netting)
- Lockable latches on all doors

3. Planning for the Future

- Coop sized for more chickens than you plan to start with
- Extra nesting boxes, feeder space, and roosts included
- Run provides full-time outdoor access if no free-range
- City zoning & HOA guidelines reviewed
- Coop placement follows setback rules



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4. Climate & Region Adjustments

- Insulated coop or extra indoor space for cold climates
- Windbreaks or closed windows for winter
- Shade on coop and run for hot climates
- Max ventilation + airflow in summer
- Waterers placed in shaded spots

Final Check

- Coop = enough indoor space
- Run = enough outdoor space
- Features = ventilation, roosts, nesting, security
- Built for your climate and flock's future