

Complete Guide to Buying a Chicken Coop and Run



A Complete Guide to Buying a Chicken Coop and Run

by Betsy Chutchian

★★★★☆ 4.9 out of 5

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Materials

The material you choose for your chicken coop and run will depend on a number of factors, including your budget, climate, and the number of chickens you plan to keep. Here are the most common materials used for chicken coops and runs:

- **Wood:** Wood is a popular choice for chicken coops and runs because it is relatively inexpensive and easy to work with. However, wood can rot and warp over time, so it is important to choose a treated wood that is resistant to moisture and pests.
- **Metal:** Metal is another durable option for chicken coops and runs. It is not as susceptible to rot and warping as wood, but it can be more expensive. Metal coops and runs can also get hot in the summer, so it is important to provide adequate ventilation.
- **Plastic:** Plastic is a lightweight and inexpensive option for chicken coops and runs. However, it is not as durable as wood or metal, and it can become brittle in cold weather.

Sizes

The size of your chicken coop and run will depend on the number of chickens you plan to keep. A general rule of thumb is to provide 4 square feet of space per chicken in the coop and 10 square feet of space per chicken in the run.

Here is a table of recommended coop and run sizes for different flock sizes:

Number of Chickens	Coop Size (square feet)	Run Size (square feet)
2-4	8-16	40-80
5-8	16-32	80-160
9-12	32-48	160-240
13-16	48-64	240-320

Features

Chicken coops and runs can come with a variety of features, including:

- **Nesting boxes:** Nesting boxes provide a safe and private place for chickens to lay their eggs. They should be large enough for the chickens to stand up and turn around in, and they should have a clean, dry bedding material.
- **Roosting bars:** Roosting bars provide a place for chickens to sleep and perch. They should be made of a smooth, round material so that the chickens do not injure their feet.
- **Ventilation:** Ventilation is essential for keeping your chickens healthy. The coop and run should have plenty of vents to allow air to circulate and prevent the buildup of ammonia fumes.
- **Security:** Your chicken coop and run should be secure to protect your chickens from predators. The coop should have a sturdy door that locks, and the run should be enclosed with a fence that is at least 6 feet high.

Safety Considerations

When choosing a chicken coop and run, it is important to keep safety in mind. Here are some things to consider:

- **Ventilation:** As mentioned above, ventilation is essential for keeping your chickens healthy. However, you also need to make sure that the vents are not large enough for predators to get through.
- **Security:** The coop and run should be secure to protect your chickens from predators. The coop should have a sturdy door that locks, and the

run should be enclosed with a fence that is at least 6 feet high.

- **Fire safety:** The coop and run should be made of fire-resistant materials. You should also keep a fire extinguisher nearby in case of an emergency.

By following these tips, you can choose a chicken coop and run that is safe and comfortable for your flock.



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