



## A Repurposed Chicken Coop

### More Bang for your “Cluck”

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The most important principle to understand with homesteading is being resourceful. The more inventive you are, the more bang for your “cluck” you will get.

Homesteading and chickens seem to go hand in hand. When it comes to adding livestock to your homestead, chickens are the most popular first choice. There have been several other articles we have put together talking about adding chicken to your homestead. Still, we are going to look at a step before bringing the chickens home—building or repurposing a coop.

What makes chicken a popular first choice is they are relatively small, and it can be easier and more cost-effective to house them. Many times people will repurpose a small shed or section of a preexisting building to turn into a chicken coop. The best part is that it usually works great!

While you can convert almost anything into a chicken coop, there are some things you need to keep in mind as a checklist. The first thing to keep in mind is it needs to be safe, and by that, I mean as much as a coop is designed to keep chickens in, it also needs to keep unwanted critters out. The floor or bottom of walls need to be secure, so no other animals can dig, chew, or pry their way in. Second is ventilation; air movement is vital in a coop no matter the time of year. Even during the coldest time of year, you want fresh air to be able to circulate through. Chickens can become ill, and it can spread disease when there is poor air circulation, not to mention it will also help keep the moisture out. Lastly, you want to make sure the coop is the proper size for the number of chickens you are trying to house. One chicken will need approx. 2-3 sq. Ft. per bird in a coop. In the coop, you will want to add a roost. ( a bar in which the chicken can perch themselves on) you will need to provide at least 6 inches per bird. When you install the roosts, place them 18 to 24 inches above the floor and spaced 1 foot apart.

Because of the simplicity of chickens, you can make a coop out of any material. Some people will use old sheds, sections of a barn not being used, build their own out of recycled material, and some people will modify them to be a mobile coop. Have fun, and don’t be afraid to get creative!

Resources:

<https://extension.psu.edu/successfully-raising-a-small-flock-of-laying-chickens>

<https://extension.psu.edu/planning-to-start-raising-poultry>

<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/ec1644>