

Chick Care Guide

Raising chicks can be a very exciting and rewarding experience. It can also be a challenging task caring for them properly. So you get the most out of raising your own poultry, we have provided some helpful information to keep your birds healthy.



Before Your Chicks Arrive:

Your first consideration will be where to set up their brooder. The area should be kept clean, dry, draft free, and away from any eating areas. Have your brooder, feeders, waterers, feed and proper heat source up and ready to go. Here is a list of supplies you'll need upon your chicks arrival:

- * Brooder Box
- * Feeder
- * Waterer
- * Chick Starter Feed
- * Heat Lamp
- * Heat Bulb 125 to 250 Watt
- * Thermometer
- * Pine Shavings
- * Vitamins & Electrolytes
- * Chick Warmer



Set up your brooder and get it to temperature before your birds arrive so the area is evenly warm before they come.

After Your Chicks Arrive:

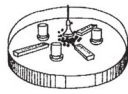
A brooder with a grippable surface is best for proper leg development. The grippable surface helps chicks learn to walk and aids in preventing splayed legs, slipped tendons and other leg deformities. Pine shavings can also be used for bedding in the brooder. This will help absorb droppings and keep the chicks clean and the area smelling fresh. Bedding should be replaced about every 3-4 days depending on how quickly it is soiled. Older chicks will need their bedding replaced more often.

HEAT/TEMPERATURE:

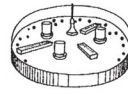
You will need a heat lamp and heat bulb to keep your chicks warm. Usually a 125-250 watt lamp per 25 birds is required to start with. Red bulbs are preferable as they will cause less pecking. Initially the temperature should be 90-95 degrees from the center section of the brooder (about 4-6 inches of the center). As your chicks grow, you will need to lower your temperature by 5 degrees each week until 70 degrees is reached. At this point, the heat can be removed unless the temperature outside of the brooder area is still quite cold. The chicks are the best indicators of whether or not you are providing them with adequate heat. If they are all huddled together under the lamp, you need to increase the heat in the brooder. Also, if they scatter to the edges of the brooder, it's too hot. Ideally your chicks should be feeding and drinking and generally scattered about the brooder area.

Temperature Guide by Week

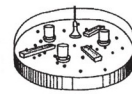
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|-----------|--------|-----------|--------|
| 0-1 week | 90-95* | 3-4 weeks | 75-80* |
| 1-2 weeks | 85-90* | 4-5 weeks | 70-75* |
| 2-3 weeks | 80-85* | 5-6 weeks | 70* |



TOO COOL



TOO HOT



JUST RIGHT

FOOD/WATER:

Chicks MUST be provided with feed and water as soon as you receive them. To start a chick, dip the chicks beak in their water and feed to initiate them to where their food and water sources are. As you move your chicks outside, you will need an ample number of containers to accommodate the size of your flock. Provide one 24 inch feeder and one gallon chick fountain for each twenty-five chicks. Keep your feeders and waterers close to the heat source. Chicks will not stray far from the heat to eat and drink. Provide warm water to chicks their first week. Change your water daily and keep your feeders clean. This will keep your chicks healthy. Waterers should "grow" with your birds. As the chicks grow, their consumption increases and you will need to step up on the size of the waterer. Newborn (0-2 weeks old) chicks will need a small water base of some type to keep them from drowning or getting wet. Wet chicks often die from getting too cold. Adding vitamins and electrolytes to the chick's water their first week or two will help them get off to a better start and help prevent pasting up.

FEED:

The same basics hold true for your feeders. The bigger the chicks get, the larger feeder you will need. Provide day old chicks, ducks and geese with CHICK STARTER. Turkeys and Game birds require a higher protein feed such as Turkey or Game Bird Starter. NEVER FEED SCRATCH TO CHICKS!

As your chicks grow, provide them with more space. This will reduce cannibalism, provide an area for them to exercise, and reduce the chance of disease.

Often times people get a few chicks for their children to enjoy. Be advised that over-handling them can lead to a decrease in your chick population. Remember to keep them warm, dry, fed and watered and before you know it, you'll be the recipient of fresh eggs.