# Building a Chicken Coop

This playbook outlines the process for designing and constructing a chicken coop. It ensures a secure and comfortable environment for backyard chickens.

### Step 1: Planning

Research chicken coop designs based on the number of chickens, available space, and local climate conditions. Ensure it meets local zoning and building codes. Decide on the location, dimensions, style, and materials.

### Step 2: Gathering Materials

Purchase or acquire all the necessary materials and tools needed for the coop construction. This includes lumber, hardware, roofing materials, and any additional features like nesting boxes or windows.

### Step 3: Foundation Setup

Clear and level the ground where the coop will be built. Lay a predator-proof foundation using concrete, paving stones, or pressure-treated wood.

### Step 4: Framing Coop

Construct the frame of the chicken coop, ensuring it is sturdy and provides adequate ventilation. Build the floor, walls, and roof structure.

### Step 5: Adding Walls

Attach the exterior walls, using plywood or similar materials. Consider insulation if needed for the climate. Cut out openings for doors, windows, and ventilation.

### Step 6: Roofing

Install the roof, adding any necessary sheathing, tar paper, and roofing material. Ensure the roof has a slope to prevent water pooling.

### Step 7: Interior Setup

Install interior features such as nesting boxes, roosts, and a droppings tray. Ensure there is enough space and accessibility for the chickens.

### Step 8: Doors and Windows

Install doors and secure windows. Make doors predator-proof with proper latches. Windows should have screens or hardware cloth to prevent predators and allow for ventilation.

### Step 9: Finishing Touches

Paint or treat the wood to protect it from the elements. Add any aesthetic features or decorations as desired.

### Step 10: Coop Inspection

Inspect the coop thoroughly to ensure no sharp edges, loose components, or security risks are present. Make sure it is ready to safely house chickens.

### Step 11: Move Chickens

Introduce the chickens to their new coop gradually, monitoring their behavior and ensuring their comfort and safety.

## General Notes

### Maintenance

Regularly inspect and maintain the coop to ensure it remains safe and comfortable for the chickens. Address any wear and tear issues promptly.

### Expansion

If adding more chickens, consider the need for additional space or coop expansion to maintain a healthy environment.