

Feeder & Waterer

The feeder and Waterer you choose will most likely change depending on your preference, your birds lifestage and your flock size. For chick we recommend the round feeders that have the pint container attachment.



Grit

Chicks need grit just like adult chickens. Since they don't have teeth, they swallow grit and hold it in their gullet and use it to grind up their food! We recommend putting it in a dish in their coop or brooder and they will self supplement. **Pro Tip:** Sweet PDZ doubles as grit!



Treats

Although chicks can't have scratch until they are 6 months old (both habit & health reasons) **mealworms** and bugs are a great treat option! They are high in protein and fat! After a few servings they get to know the person who gives them their favorite treat!

Calcium Supplement

Although chicks do not need the calcium supplemented regularly, your birds will mature at independent rates so when they need to start supplementing calcium (making egg shells) they can help themselves! This may be sooner than you expect! We use **Oyster Shell**



Prepare for the Future

Coop

Chicks grow FAST so make sure you have a coop before you get them or get it while they are little! Once chicks are fully feather (can regulate their own body heat) they can start to be integrated into their outside coop!

Coop: should be 4 Sq. Ft. per bird

Run: should be 8 Sp. Ft. per bird

Nesting Boxes

Make sure you have nesting boxes for your birds to nest and lay in! Approximately 1 box per 4 chickens is an ideal ratio.



When To Switch Feed

Switching feed is essential but it is not as urgent as some make it out to be. Feeding the Chick Starter is **far less** dangerous than starting the Layer Feed too soon. Once you know your chicks now hens (laying eggs) finish your chick starter bag if you like, and then switch them to a layer feed. This time will usually be around the 6 month mark!

Pro Tip: For the best value, we recommend our Snoco Layer Pellet: No Preservatives, High Protein for egg production, High Calcium for strong shells, Vitamins & Mineral packet!



Chick Cheat Sheet

–Your Chick Starter Checklist–

- ☐ Brooder (Stock Tank, Container)
- ☐ Heat Lamp (Lamp + Bulb)
- ☐ Bedding (Shavings, Straw, Bedding Pellets)
- ☐ Feeder
- ☐ Waterer
- ☐ Feed
- ☐ Supplements
- ☐ Coop Refresh
- ☐ Diatomaceous Earth/Poultry Dust
- ☐ Grit
- ☐ Treat



Yay, You're Here!

Whether this is your first time getting Chicks, or you're a seasoned pro we are happy to be a part of your Chick experience! The checklist on the front is for all your needs and if you are looking for information or recommendations about any of those items, **Keep Reading!** We are going to cover chick care, main items, and tips to make sure you're successful!

Brooder

This is the temporary enclosure in which you raise your chicks in. This area must be able to be temperature controlled and safe. Here at the Co-op our favorite option for a brooder is a **Behlen Tank**. They are small and compact but galvanized so they are durable. They don't rust or leak and are tall to keep your chicks from jumping out. The Galvanized structure is ideal for the heat lamp as opposed to some of the plastic tank options. **Pro Tip:** Get your Brooder set up and heat on before you bring the chicks home!



Heat Lamp

We have a lamp which can handle the temperatures as well as a clamp to place wherever you need in your brooder (right on the side of the Behlen Tank).

For the Bulb we offer red and white. We recommend the **Red Heat Lamp** bulb. It has a lower impact on their sleep cycle while actually reducing Pecking!

Approx. Temperature based on Age according to Nutrena	
Week 1	90 – 95°
Week 2	85 – 90°
Week 3	80 – 85°
Week 4	75 – 80°
Week 5, 6, 7	70 – 75°
Week 8	65 – 70°
Week 9	65° minimum

Bedding

Bedding is essential for maintaining cleanliness and warmth. We recommend the **Gem White Shavings** for optimal absorption, high insulation, low dust, and best value! (**Pro Tip:** Do not use Cedar Shavings for your chickens!)



Feed

Feed gives you a lot of options so here are the 3 main types: Medicated, Non-Medicated, & Organic. Our preference is the Medicated Chick Starter. It is called amprolium and it is a preventative medication against the highly contagious and deadly Coccidiostat. The medication is one of the safest medications. **CHS Hatch-to-Hen Feed** is a great value.



For those wanting the organic option: **CHS and Scratch&Peck** have popular Chick Starter Feed



Pro Tip: Never Feed Layer Feed to your Chicks!!! Chick feed is nutritionally crafted to meet the needs of the chick lifestage (pre egg layer). It is high in protein to support their rapid development but low in calcium. Once they are laying, their nutritional needs change to needing a lower protein level but a much higher calcium level. High calcium levels for chickens which are not laying can cause irreparable major organ damage.

Supplements

Chicks need very simple supplements. Here are the ones we recommend be given regularly and especially when you are introducing them into their new homes: A Electrolyte Vitamin, Mineral, & Probiotic supplement. Also a Omega Supplement. These will set your birds up for success and keep them healthy by just adding them to the water!



Coop Refresh

This product is life changing and if their brooders are indoors, essential. A natural mineral Zeolite is highly absorptive and actually absorbs ammonia (a dangerous toxin released by waste)! This makes everything safe & healthy while reducing the unpleasant odor!

(**Pro Tip:** Sweet PDZ is the same product in a 30 lbs bag if you are using larger amounts)



Poultry Dust & D.E.

Insects and pests like mites and fleas can be harmful to your birds. Poultry Dust is a medicated powder (permethrin) that will eliminate these. Diatomaceous Earth (D.E.) is a natural option often food grade that is also very effective to treat. Both can be applied topically and around the living areas but only D.E. is food grade!

Pro Tip: Keep D.E. out of their eyes!



