



# Chicken Care Sheet

Day 1 - 8 Weeks

For more information about chickens  
Go to our website [www.maddiesct.com](http://www.maddiesct.com)

So you want to raise chickens...

There are a few things you need to think about and do before you get your chicks.

1. Why are you wanting chickens?
2. Are they pets or food?
3. What breed/s are you looking into and how many?
4. Where are you going to keep them during each stage of life?
5. Does the town you live in allow chickens?
6. What are you going to do with the roosters if you are not allowed to have them?

All of these questions should be answered before you pick up your chicks, now there's a few things you need to do before you take them home.

1. Set up a brooder for the babies. Your brooder should be inside, we recommend the basement or a spare bathroom, and should have a heat source, water, food, and bedding. You can use a storage tub, a cardboard box, a dog crate, or you can be handy and make one from plywood. Make sure you have a lid or a cover so they don't fly out as they get bigger.
2. Once you have a place for the chicks, here is a list of things you should get at your local feed store to prepare for your new chicks.
  - Pine shavings (bedding)
  - Chick starter food with 20% protein (can be medicated or unmedicated. We've used both.)
  - A waterer and feeder (You'll want bigger ones when they go outside.)

- A heat source- The safer option is a heat plate but you can use a heat lamp as long as it's secure.

\*\*Electrolytes & probiotics- these will be mixed in their water for the first week.\*\*

(Not necessary, but recommended.)

3. Now you can get your chicks. Depending on their age will determine the temperature your brooder needs to be set to.

Day 1 to week 1 - 95 Degrees

Week 1 to 2 - 90 degrees

Week 2 to 3 - 85 Degrees

Week 3 to 4- 80 Degrees

Week 4 to 5 - 75 Degrees

Week 5 to 6 - 70 Degrees

Week 6 to 7 - Room Temp inside

Week 8 - If the outside temps are above 45 degrees consistently your chicks are ready to go outside.

4. When your chicks are ready to go outside make sure you have a coop ready for them. When buying or building a coop it should have enough room to house the chicks that you raised. One chicken needs about 4sq ft of coop area and 8sq ft of run area.  
Ex: 6 chickens need a coop that is 24 sq. ft. and a run that is 48 sq. ft. minimum. The more space they have the less likely they are to bully each other.
5. You will start to see eggs around 16-20 weeks. Some take longer than ours and weather also plays a role.