

# THE NEW CHICKEN KEEPER CHECKLIST

Everything You Need Before Bringing Home Chicks

## Before chicks arrive:

- NPIP-certified hatchery or feed store selected
- Brooder box (large plastic tote or wooden box, minimum 2 sq ft per chick)
- Heat plate or ceramic heat emitter (safer than heat lamps, which cause fires)
- Digital thermometer/hygrometer
- Chick starter feed, 20% protein, medicated or non-medicated
- Shallow chick waterers (2 minimum)
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- Hemp or pine shavings bedding (never cedar – toxic oils)
- Hardware cloth for coop build (1/4 inch gaps)

## Before moving to the coop (week 4–6):

- Predator-proof coop completed (see 12-point checklist below)
- Outdoor run covered with hardware cloth or roof
- Hanging feeder and waterer (reduces spillage)
- Nest boxes (1 per 3–4 hens)
- Roosting bars (2 inches wide, rounded edges, 8 inches per bird)
- Layer feed ready (16–18% protein, calcium for shells)
- Oyster shell dispenser
- Grit dispenser (only after week 6, and only if feeding treats/scratch)

