

Chick Care Facts



FEED

Feed chicks 3-5 hours after they have had their first drink
After the chicks have started on feed, place it in a shallow tray or lid
Switch to a regular chick feeder when they are acclimated to their new home
One chick will eat about 10 pounds of chick starter in its first 10 weeks of life
Get a good feeder, because it:
 Prevents chicks from roosting on the feeder
 Can be raised to the height of the birds' backs as they grow
 Is easy to clean

WATER

Chicks prefer water temperature to be between 50-55 degrees
In winter, make sure water doesn't freeze
In winter, provide warm water at least 2x day
In summer, keep water in the shade and refill frequently
The warmer the weather, the less they will drink

LIGHT

Don't leave chicks in the dark – it affects their growth rate
Keep light on for at least the first 48 hours
Turn off during the day, to utilize natural light
Turn off lights for at least ½ hour during the day, so they don't panic if the electricity is lost
Hang lamps starting at 18 inches from the floor

HEAT

Provide one 250 watt infrared heat lamp for 25-100 chicks
Have a second if the area is large enough in case the first one burns out

BEDDING

The ideal for bedding for chicks is pine wood shavings, crushed corncobs or peat moss
Avoid straw – it mats down and chicks have trouble walking
Avoid newspaper – too slick and can cause leg problems
Raised wire is clean but doesn't allow the chicks to develop a natural resistance to coccidiosis

ENVIRONMENT

Fresh, clean air is essential for optimum growth
Eliminate dust
Eliminate drafts
Good ventilation decreases the amount of disease causing organisms from the air
If you smell ammonia fumes and see thick cobwebs in your coop, it is not ventilated properly