



BUILD YOUR OWN CHICKEN COOP

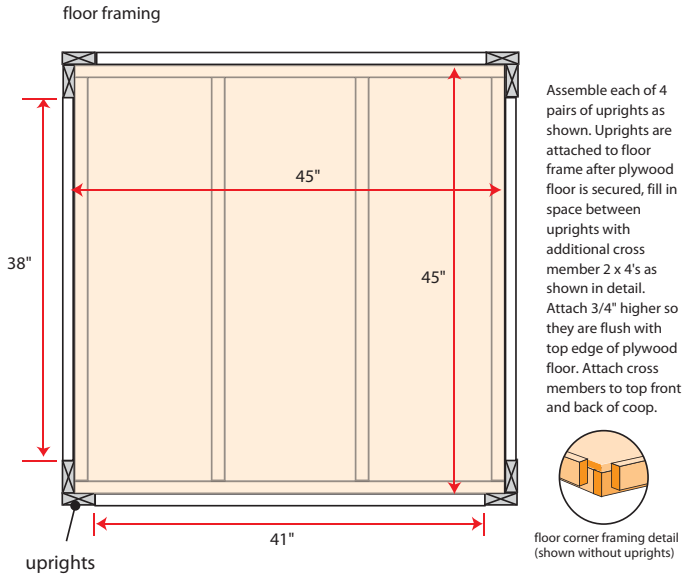
Your little chicks will grow surprisingly fast and soon be full size chickens. At this point you will need to provide for their long term housing. Chickens are not particular about their accommodations, but will be happier, healthier and more productive when given protection from extremes of heat and cold, security from predators and a dry, draft free place to roost for the night. In addition, your layers will need a cozy space to go when it's time to lay their eggs. Your poultry quarters must also provide for your needs as caretaker when it comes time to feed, water, collect eggs and clean the coop and change the litter.

If you have a fenced yard or similar enclosed space your birds can be allowed to free range during daylight hours. You will find them out busily scratching the ground at dawn and back in their coop by dusk. This arrangement also provides you the opportunity to observe their variety of interesting behaviors in a natural setting. The greatest threat to your chickens during the day will be from dogs and wild canines like foxes or coyotes. At night, raccoons and possums are on the prowl and will

easily find their way into an unsecured coop to decimate your flock. Your coop must have a secure, latching door such as a hook and eye with a spring catch. Your other option is to build a secure outside chicken run connected to your coop that is screened on all sides and the top. Your birds can then move in and out of the coop at will and you don't have to worry about letting them out and closing them up every day and evening.

The following coop plans accommodate 8 full size chickens or 12 bantams. A larger version can be built by doubling all length dimensions that will hold up to 16 full size chickens or 24 bantams. The outside area for your birds should provide a minimum of 4 square feet per bird. You will want a nest box for every 4 hens. The inside of the coop floor should be covered with wood shavings to a 3 inch depth and changed every few months, more or less depending on how many chickens you have.

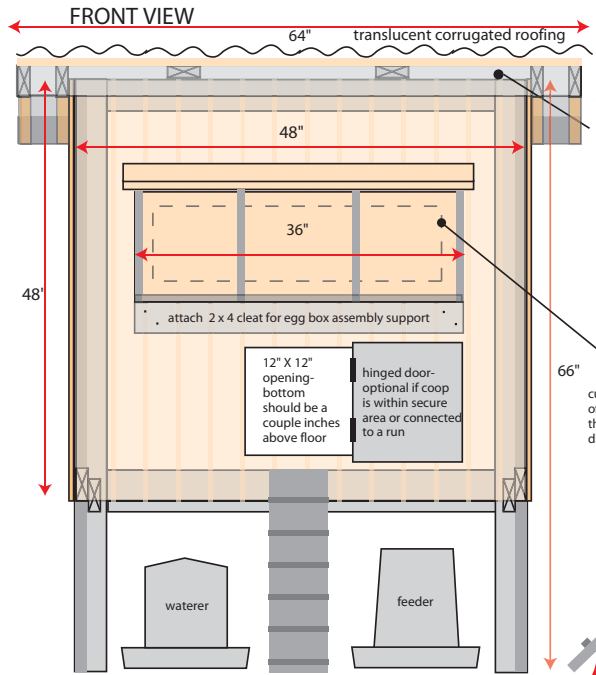
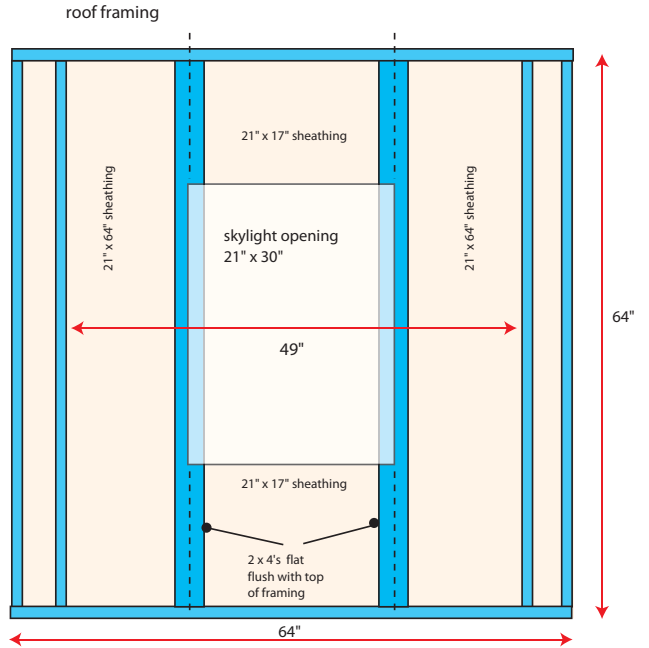
TOP VIEWS



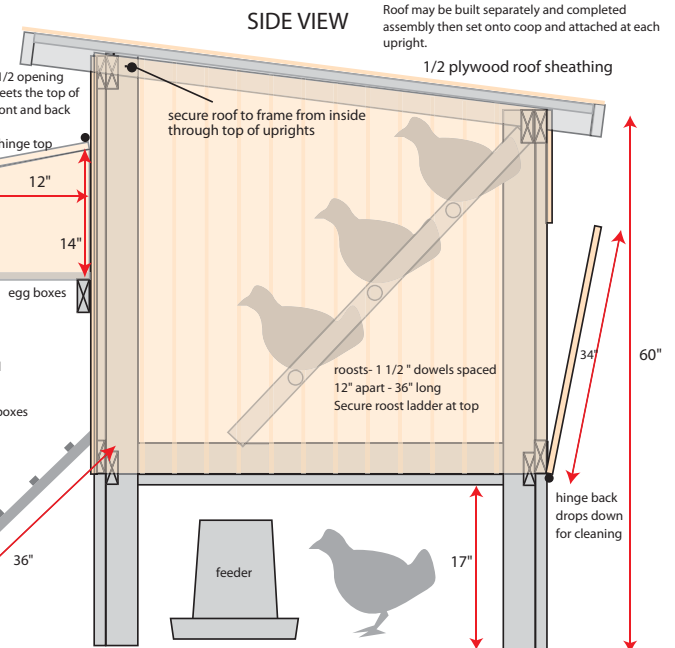
Assemble each of 4 pairs of uprights as shown. Uprights are attached to floor frame after plywood floor is secured, fill in space between uprights with additional cross member 2 x 4's as shown in detail. Attach 3/4" higher so they are flush with top edge of plywood floor. Attach cross members to top front and back of coop.



floor corner framing detail (shown without uprights)



There will be a 1 1/2" opening where the roof meets the top of the walls in the front and back for ventilation.



Roof may be built separately and completed assembly then set onto coop and attached at each upright.

- all dimension lumber is 2 x 4 unless otherwise indicated
- use treated lumber for uprights
- use 3/4 exterior plywood for floor and egg boxes
- use 1/2" thick exterior T-111 siding or similar material for sheathing
- use galvanized or corrosion resistant fasteners
- shingles may be substituted for corrugated sheet roofing but roof sheathing will have to be increased to 3/4 plywood and 3/4" roofing nails used to avoid exposed nail points inside coop
- Apply an exterior stain or paint to your coop's exterior

MATERIALS

- Floor Assembly**
- (4) 2 x 4 - 42"
 - (2) 2 x 4 - 45"
 - (1) 3/4 plywood - 45" x 45"
- Frame Assembly**
- (4) 2x4 treated - 66"
 - (4) 2x4 treated - 66"
 - (2) 2 x 4 - 38"
 - (4) 2 x 4 - 41"

- Roof Assembly**
- (6) 2 x 4 - 61"
 - (2) 2 x 4 - 64"
 - (1) 4' x 8' - 1/2 plywood, cut per plan
- Sheathing - (2) 4 x 8 sheets cut as indicated**
- (1) 48" x 48"
 - (2) 48" x 48" tapered to 42"
 - (1) 48" x 8"
 - (1) 48" x 34"

- Nest Boxes**
- front 36" x 12"
 - top 38" x 14"
 - sides (2) 12" x 14" tapered
 - bottom 11 1/4 x 34 1/2 tapered
 - (1) 2 x 4 cleat - 36"
- MISC**
- corrugated roofing, hinges, latches
 - nails, screws, 1 1/2" dowels