

## Shopping for a Coop Kit for Backyard Chickens

### The Short List - What You Need in a Coop Kit

- Enough roost bar space for the chickens you want (8-10" minimum/chicken)
- Ventilation - venting under the roof, windows, etc.
- Access points to clean and check on chickens - lots of doors!
- Nesting boxes with easy access (you don't need many of these!)
- Hardware cloth throughout!
- Two-step predator proof locks
- How to secure around the base of the coop to prevent digging under
- *Do you need a "yard" for your flock or not? Does it have protection from flying predators?*
- *Where will you put the chickens' food and water?*
- *Is there an option for a storage space in the coop?*

### Hacks to Improve Your Kit:

- Seal it with a weatherproof wood sealant once a year
- Automatic coop door recommended
- Additional predator proofing around the edge
- Don't worry about the chickens being cold - worry about them getting too hot
- Use materials with little-to-no dust (eg avoid cedar materials and fine sand)
- Clean the coop as often as possible, as chickens poop in their sleep
- Deep clean the coop at least once every six months
- Regularly check around the coop for damage, repairs, predator attempts, etc.
- Bird netting recommended for overhead if you use a chicken run
- *Use the Chicken Tender's Journal to keep track of chicken chores, due dates, etc.!*
  - *Find it on [RealSimpleMama.com](http://RealSimpleMama.com)*

*Remember that you can find all of RSM's fowl content on YouTube and on her website.*