



Curious About Raising Chickens?

Raising chickens has become a popular topic of both **conversation** and **public policy**.

Why Raise Chickens?

- You have a ready supply of hormone-free eggs that can be eaten and shared
- Eggs are local, and you learn more about your food supply
- Chickens will eat bugs and slugs while fertilizing your garden
- You can provide a more humane home for chickens than industrial farm methods
- Chickens are easy to care for and take little time

Growing chickens in the back yard can be a fun and rewarding experience, but it's good to prepare ahead of time. Here are some tips to get you started:

1. **Research whether chickens are allowed** in the jurisdiction where you live. For example, chickens are allowed in Portland, but not roosters. Check **City code** or web sites such as **TheCityChicken.com** for local regulations.
2. **Chickens need a place to live.** There are many companies that offer kits or already built chicken coops, or you can build your own. To avoid problems, keep the coop away your neighbor's bedroom window!
3. **Chickens need room to roam.** It is a good idea to have netting or chicken wire over your chickens to protect them from predators like hawks, dogs and raccoons. Attach an area to the chicken coop or create a mobile setup that can move around your yard.
4. **Decide the breed of chicken.** There are assorted breeds in various sizes and colors; the breed also impacts the color and frequency of the eggs. Local fairs are a great way to learn about different breeds. Purchase chickens from local feed stores or online.
5. **Chickens need food** which is usually a type of grain. The most common is cracked corn that can be purchased at local feed stores or online. They also eat table scraps and bugs. Chickens may also need a heat source in winter.



Community Connect:

Portland has plenty of resources and a thriving chicken community!

- Growing Gardens has a **Portland Chickens** page with community events & tips
- Here are some Portland area **Resources for the Backyard Chickenkeeper**
- Don't want your own? Volunteer at **Zenger Farm** and help care for their chickens.

Brought to you by the OMF Green Roots Team

Electronic versions are available at www.portlandonline.com/OMF/GreenMatters