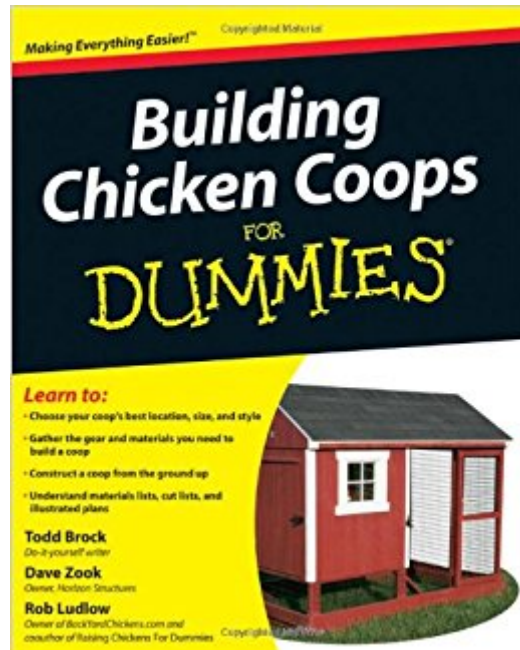




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# Building Chicken Coops For Dummies



## Synopsis

As the popularity of urban homesteading and sustainable living increases, it's no wonder you're in need of trusted, practical guidance on how to properly house the chickens you're planning (or have already begun) to keep. *Building Chicken Coops For Dummies* gives you the information you need to build the most cost-efficient, safe, and easy-on-the-eye enclosures for your backyard flock. This practical guide gives you easy-to-follow and customizable plans for building the backyard chicken coop that works best for you. You'll get the basic construction know-how and key information you need to design and build a coop tailored to your flock, whether you live in a small city loft, a suburban backyard, or a small rural farm. Includes detailed material lists, instructions, and schematic plans for building a host of different chicken coops. Step-by-step guidance on how to build a coop or design your own. Accessible for every level of reader. Whether you're just beginning to gain an interest in a back-to-basics lifestyle or looking to add more attractive and efficient coops to your current flock, *Building Chicken Coops For Dummies* gives you everything you need to build a winning coop!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Build a safe, attractive, and cost-effective enclosure for your backyard flock. Whether you have a small city loft, a suburban backyard, or a rural farm, this friendly guide gives you easy-to-follow and customizable plans for building a backyard chicken coop. You'll get basic construction know-how and key information to design and build a coop that's easy on the eyes and tailored to your flock. Begin with chicken coop basics • determine the necessary features for your coop, add a few

amenities, and choose the right location and size • Get set to build your chicken coop • figure out the gear and materials you need and get a crash course on basic carpentry skills • Dig into coop construction • prepare your coop's site, create your coop's skeleton, and include walls, doors, windows, and a roof • Add finishing touches • construct creature comforts for your flock, put together a run, and plug in with basic electricity • Check out all kinds of coops • follow materials lists, cut lists, and schematic drawings for five different chicken coops

Open the book and find:

- The dirt on essential coop-building tools
- The carpentry skills you'll need to construct like a pro
- Tips for prepping the coop site
- Guidance on adding walls, doors, windows, and a roof
- Pointers on building roosts, nest boxes, ramps, and runs
- How to add electricity to your coop
- Helpful schematic drawings
- Fun ideas to trick out your coop

Learn to:

- Choose your coop's best location, size, and style
- Gather the gear and materials you need to build a coop
- Construct a coop from the ground up
- Understand materials lists, cut lists, and illustrated plans

**Todd Brock:** Todd Brock has written, directed, and produced more than 1,000 episodes of television programming. His shows on topics ranging from landscaping to home renovations to gardening have been broadcast nationally on major networks including HGTV, DIY Network, and PBS, and locally in one of the country's Top 10 TV markets. As a freelance writer, Todd has researched and written about everything from mobsters to Pac-Man, and children's stories to cheeseburgers. He lives in the Atlanta, Georgia, area with his wife, Debbie, and their two daughters, Sydney and Kendall.

**Dave Zook:** Dave Zook, his wife, Suz, and their four children, Justin, Jordan, Jenika, and Javon, live on several acres in rural Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He is the founder/owner of Horizon Structures, a manufacturer of pre-built storage sheds, garages, horse barns, and chicken coops. Dave and his family keep a small flock of chickens at home in one of his company's coops. He continues to improve the designs and develop new ones based on customer input as well as his family's experiences with their own backyard flock. Over the past nine years, Horizon's line of chicken coops has proven to be very popular with chicken fanciers and their hens throughout the U.S., with coops now in 48 states!

**Rob Ludlow:** Rob Ludlow, his wife, Emily, and their two beautiful daughters, Alana and April, are the perfect example of the suburban family with a small flock of backyard chickens. Like countless others, what started out as a fun hobby raising a few egg-laying machines has almost turned into an addiction. Originally, Rob started posting his chicken experiences on his hobby Web site, [www.Nifty-Stuff.com](http://www.Nifty-Stuff.com), but after realizing how much his obsession was growing, he decided to concentrate his efforts into a site devoted completely to the subject. Now Rob owns and manages [www.backyardchickens.com](http://www.backyardchickens.com), the

largest and fastest-growing community of chicken enthusiasts in the world. Rob is also the coauthor of the book *Raising Chickens For Dummies*.

We're new to chicken coops and many things construction. I sat down with my dad and we read through the book. There were a number of plans and we eventually decided to slightly modify the plan showed on the cover, but with the directions provided it was very easy for us to do that. Dad and I are very mathematically oriented, but not so construction oriented so we really needed a book like this. If my dad had not come by to help, I would simply have done the coop on the cover and I feel pretty confident that I could have done it myself. The equipment lists were absolutely a life saver. It took us (emphasis on him) about two weeks to buy the material, build the coop and take days off to go golfing and shopping with my mom. I must admit I looked for hours on the internet for free coop plans and while there were some cool looking chicken coops out there, nothing I found had the level of detail I needed to make a chicken coop beyond a one or two chicken project. I am not the kind of person who can see a picture of something and make it. I need detailed, step by step instructions which was exactly what this book provided. I really liked the variety of options available since many people may want to select a different size coop than I did and the pros and cons are very honestly listed. I really can't say enough good things about this book. We found a similar (but not identical) coop to the one we made for commercial sale and it cost about 5 times what it cost us to make this coop. I am in the process now of painting the coop because I've decided that before I move the chickens in, it's essential that the coop match the house, but all in all this has been a fun family project and I look forward to a new hobby as a result of it. Were we not able to make this coop ourselves, I would not have paid for the commercially available coop and probably would still be debating on whether or not to get chickens.

I bought this book hoping it would have detailed plans on how to make a very large chicken coop (50 chickens) and was disappointed that the designs given aren't more specific. They do have general building guidelines, but they are in no way specific in measurements. The book does give very good information on how to build it, what to think about before building it, automatic waterers, etc. So I didn't get the coop plans I'd hoped for but it is still full of so much knowledge that we needed, so I gave it a 4 star.

As I approached the entire backyard chicken project, research was key in doing it right. I kept searching for one source that would describe, in detail, the construction and requirements of coop

building, since this was something we wanted to do on our own. Resources in that area are extremely limited, give general information and don't get into the nitty gritty of it. This book does that in spades! It is excellent for the newer DIY'er because it has a chapter with construction how-to's to wean you along. If you are looking for an in-depth coop building source, this book is definitely for you! Added benefit: also has 5 plans to look at or use!

Great ideas and instructions, but gave it as a Christmas gift to my husband, and hope to get a functional coop for spring chickens, we will see. If anything I know I can do it myself, but would be nice to have hubby do it, (with me as a helper) if only to get him out of the house, and have a feeling of accomplishment.

Oddly enough, the plans for a hooped coop, which they say is the easiest and one of the best all around configurations for keeping chickens, is not included in the book... and is of course the one I was looking for. But it was very helpful at developing my basic building skills and I needed that too.

The book is very informative and an easy read. I would have given it 5 stars had there been a few more plans for coops. It also seems that more and more chicken people want "walk in" coops or runs. There was not much selection for walk-in coops/runs. The book itself covered many different topics and would be especially helpful to someone that has some basic construction/building knowledge. Overall you can't ask for too much more.

I have been talking with flock owners and reading material on chickens, collecting feeders, waterers, etc. before I bring the first chick 'home'. I have seen many articles, read a few books and been given loads of "how-to's" for building a chicken coop. This is a good, informative, easy-to-read book for a beginner like I am. Between it and the other book I bought [by Judy Pangman] I have the benefit of loads of "experience" and ideas to help me plan a coop for my "girls". I really like the "Dummy" line of books.

I bought two books so that I can build a chicken coop. This book is one of those two. I have not built the coop yet, but I have looked at the plans in this book, and I was a little surprised to see how much detail was put into the plans which include a 'bill of materials' for each coop design. There are 5 different plans that range from small to large chicken coops. I have a little skill with tools, so with this book, there is really no need to spend money on another book about building chicken coops, I

would use that money on a book about raising and proper care of chickens, and their feeding requirements.

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