

Chicken Basics

Chickens take time and commitment– be sure you know the requirements before getting started! Raising backyard chickens can be a great way to have access to fresh eggs and learn more about agriculture and caring for animals. Chickens require daily care, specific food, shelter and sanitation to ensure they stay healthy and happy for continued egg production.

Coon Rapids requires any residents interested in raising chickens to obtain a permit. Specific requirements must be met before purchasing chickens. Be aware of all rules to ensure you meet City Code.



Additional Resources

Coon Rapids City Code Section 6-7000
Chickens: www.coonrapidsmn.gov

University of MN Extension Backyard
Chicken Basics:
www.extension.umn.edu/food/small-farms/livestock/poultry/backyard-chicken-basics

Minnesota Institute for Sustainable
Agriculture (MISA):
<https://www.misa.umn.edu/resources/local-food-sales-resources>

Additional resources for new chicken owners:
BackyardChickens.com
MyPetChicken.com

Chicken Classes:
Anoka-Hennepin Community Education
www.discovercommunityed.com

Egg Plant Urban Farm Supply
www.eggplantsupply.com

Contact Us

To obtain a permit, contact the Building
Inspections Department at 763-767-6476.

For general questions about chickens, contact
the Neighborhood Reinvestment Division at
763-767-6470.

Raising Backyard Chickens



CITY PERMIT REQUIRED



Code Requirements

A permit is required for any resident raising chickens in Coon Rapids (a permit fee applies).

City Code specifications:

- No more than four female chickens
- No roosters
- No slaughtering/processing on the property
- Chickens over 6 weeks old cannot be kept inside
- Chickens are not allowed to roam free, unless yards are completely fenced in.

See City Code 6-700 (chickens) for additional requirements

Raising Chickens

Residents need to consider the time and money involved with keeping chickens. In addition to the City permit required, be aware of up-front and ongoing costs and commitments for proper chicken care. Hens require daily attention to keep them healthy and laying eggs. Chickens must be properly protected, cared for, and kept in a humane manner to avoid nuisance conditions. Permits may be revoked if regulations are not met.

Coop & Run Requirements

Location:

- In rear yard only, cannot be adjacent to garage
- At least 30 feet from adjacent property's primary residence
- At least 50 feet from any well
- At least 10 feet from side or rear lot lines
- More than 6 feet from primary or accessory structures

Design and Size:

- Total area for coop and run no more than sixty square feet
- Architecturally appropriate building materials
- Fully enclosed coop and run to prevent escape & keep birds safe
- Fence must be made with mesh type material
- Must comply with all city building and zoning codes



Getting Started

There are various breeds of backyard chickens and coop options. Consider winter/cold hardy breeds. Local farm supply stores can help you get started and there are ample resources available online. Also be sure to follow City Code guidelines. Learn which will work best for your needs.

Happy Chickens and Neighbors

Well maintained chicken coops should not create any nuisance to neighbors. Be sure your chickens are properly protected from the weather and predators in their coops. Food must be stored in a closed, metal container to avoid pests. Food and all droppings must be cleaned from the chicken coop weekly to prevent odor and filth, keeping the chickens healthy and happy.

Talk to your Neighbors!

Let your neighbors know about your chickens, the benefits they provide and be aware of code requirements to ensure your animals do not cause disturbance.



Chickens at Large!

Any chicken found running loose is in violation of City Code and will be impounded. After five business days, without being reclaimed, chickens may be humanely euthanized or sold.