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THE ULTIMATE CHICKEN COOP HANDBOOK

Build the Perfect Home for 6 Happy Hens

Step-by-step visual instructions for backyard chicken keepers

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🐔 Section 1: Welcome to Your Chicken Coop Build Guide

A Practical Handbook for Backyard Chicken Keepers

> Whether you're a first-time chicken keeper or an experienced backyard homesteader, this guide is designed to help you confidently build the perfect coop for exactly 6 hens—without overspending, overcomplicating, or overbuilding.

At UrbanPetLife.com, we know your chickens are more than just pets—they're egg-laying queens, garden companions, and part of the family. A well-built coop isn't just about shelter. It's about:

- Keeping your hens safe from predators
- Ensuring good airflow and cleanliness
- Making daily chores like feeding, collecting eggs, and cleaning fast and easy
- Creating a space that's comfortable year-round, no matter your climate

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📦 What's Inside This Guide

This step-by-step handbook walks you through the entire process of planning, sourcing, and building your coop. You'll find:

✅ 3 smart layout options depending on your backyard size

✅ A printable tools and materials checklist to take to your local hardware store

✅ Clear measurements and design sketches for a 6-chicken coop

✅ Step-by-step build instructions that even beginners can follow

✅ Bonus safety and comfort tips, from ventilation to predator-proofing

✅ Links to recommended products and kits for faster setup

Whether you're going fully DIY or modifying a kit, you'll have everything you need to get started.

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🧱 What Makes This Guide Different?

We've seen it all—coop designs that are too cramped, too fancy, or frankly, just not practical. That's why we created a function-first guide focused on:

- Space efficiency: Tailored for 6 hens
- Beginner-friendly instructions: No carpentry background needed
- Customisable builds: Start small and expand as needed
- Real-world advice: We've tested these designs with actual flocks

💡 Fun fact: Giving your hens 4+ square feet each can increase egg production by up to 20%.

✍️ Who This Guide Is For

This handbook is ideal if you:

- Just bought your first 6 chicks and need a fast but safe setup
- Are upgrading from a smaller or prefab coop
- Want a better layout to reduce mess and morning hassle
- Are interested in low-maintenance backyard chicken care
- Enjoy weekend DIY projects that pay off with fresh eggs

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🐣 Let's Get Building!

This guide will help you go from idea to build without stress. You'll gain the knowledge and tools to create a coop that's:

- Clean
- Comfortable
- Predator-proof
- Built to last

Ready? Let's jump into the next section: Why Coop Size Matters and how to make sure you're not making the #1 mistake most new chicken keepers do (Hint: it's about space!).

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🛠️ Section 2: Why Coop Size Matters

Get the space right, and your hens will reward you with eggs, health, and happiness.

If you take one lesson from this guide to heart, let it be this: don't skimp on space. The number one reason new chicken keepers struggle with health issues, behavioural problems, and poor egg production isn't lack of fancy equipment—it's a coop that's too small.

This page explains the ideal size for a 6-chicken coop, what features matter most, and how to avoid common (and costly) design mistakes—before you pick up a hammer or click "add to cart."

🐓 The Goldilocks Zone for Chickens

Chickens, like humans, need personal space. Cramped quarters can quickly lead to:

- Pecking and bullying
- Feather loss and skin infections
- Poor ventilation (and nasty smells)
- Reduced egg laying
- Increased stress = increased disease risk

On the flip side, when hens have the right environment, they're:

- Calmer and friendlier
- More consistent layers
- Easier to clean up after
- More active and playful (yes, really)

For six adult hens, here's the sweet spot:

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Area	Minimum Space Needed	Ideal Setup Tip
Indoor Coop Area	18–24 sq ft total (3–4 sq ft per hen)	Go larger if you're in a colder climate or keep your chickens inside more
Outdoor Run Area	60–90 sq ft (10–15 sq ft per hen)	More space = happier hens and less mess
Roost Space	6 ft total (1 ft per bird)	Use smooth wood like this rounded dowel that's easy on feet
Nesting Boxes	2–3 boxes	Choose ones with a slanted top to prevent roosting—like this option with a removable tray

🌬️ Why Indoor vs. Outdoor Space Both Matter

Indoor space isn't just for sleeping. Chickens use this area for:

- Nesting and egg-laying
- Staying dry in wet weather
- Roosting at night
- Escaping from wind and predators

Outdoor space (the run) is where they stretch their legs, scratch the dirt, and forage. You don't need lush pasture—just enough room to move.

💡 If you're short on yard space, a raised coop like this walk-under model is a great way to give them access to shade and shelter without expanding your footprint.

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🏡 Coop Height and Floor Plan: Vertical Space = Ventilation

Most coop advice focuses on floor area—but vertical space is critical too. You want at least 18–24 inches above the roosts to allow for air circulation. Chickens give off a lot of moisture while sleeping, and without proper airflow, that moisture turns to ammonia.

Too much ammonia = respiratory issues = vet bills and unhappy hens.

Consider adding roof vents with mesh covers or installing solar-powered ventilation fans for peace of mind—especially in hot or humid regions.

✋ Common Sizing Mistakes (That Cost Time & Money)

1. Building for chicks, not hens

   Chicks are small. Hens? Not so much. Many first-timers build a cute coop their baby birds love… only to realise 4 months later that it's overcrowded.

2. Misreading prefab kit descriptions

   When a listing says "good for 6 chickens," take it with a grain of salt. Some mass-produced kits exaggerate capacity by measuring floor space only—no run, no perch, no real roosting room.

   ✅ Look for kits with dimensions listed and honest capacity notes, like this one designed for 6 large hens.

3. No plan for cleaning access

   If you can't open the roof or side wall easily, you won't clean the coop regularly. And if you don't clean the coop regularly, your hens' health will suffer.

   ➕ Choose a plan that includes a drop-down door or removable floor tray, like this smart design with side access panels.

🧼 Cleaner Coop = Healthier Birds

A properly sized coop makes cleaning easier. When chickens aren't packed tightly together:

- Waste dries faster
- You avoid soggy bedding
- Odours are reduced naturally

We recommend lining your floor or poop board with a heavy-duty plastic tray or even vinyl shower liner from your local hardware store.

💡 Or go with a ready-made option like this washable poop board insert that fits under most standard roosts.

🛒 Optional but Helpful Upgrades

While you don't need every gadget on day one, certain upgrades really do make life easier—especially if you're working full-time or managing the coop solo.

Upgrade	Why It's Worth It
Automatic Chicken Door	Opens at dawn, closes at dusk. No more 5 a.m. wakeups.
Gravity Feeder + Waterer Combo	Keeps feed dry and reduces waste
Insulated Nesting Box Covers	Prevent frozen eggs in winter
Motion-Sensor Predator Light	Scares off foxes, raccoons, or possums

Many of these are one-time investments that pay off fast in time saved and stress avoided.

💬 Final Thought: Size First, Then Style

It’s easy to fall in love with a picture-perfect coop on Pinterest or Instagram. But a stylish coop that’s too small will cause more problems than it solves.

Start with the basics:

✅ Space

✅ Safety

✅ Ventilation

✅ Easy-to-clean features

Then you can add those cute shutters, coop signs, or solar lanterns later. Your hens will thank you by laying fresh, golden-yolked eggs—consistently.

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🏡 Section 3: 3 Smart Coop Layouts for 6 Chickens

Build the Right Structure for Your Space, Climate, and Lifestyle

Designing your chicken coop isn't just about nailing together some plywood and tossing in hay. It's about creating a functional, efficient, and comfortable environment that supports your hens—while fitting your backyard and your schedule.

Below are three proven coop layout options for housing 6 chickens, including size specs, pros and cons, build tips, and ready-to-buy kits you can modify or enhance.

✅ Option A: Raised Coop with Walk-Under Run

Footprint:

- Coop: 3 ft (W) x 6 ft (L) = 18 sq ft
- Run (underneath and extended): 6 ft (W) x 10 ft (L) = 60 sq ft

Why It Works:

- Great for small yards or urban settings
- Coop sits on stilts, creating shaded space underneath
- Efficient predator protection and drainage
- Easy to place feeders and dust bath under shelter

Upgrade Tips:

- Add a drop-down side panel for egg access
- Use corrugated roofing for easy rain runoff
- Install a solar automatic door kit to keep early mornings easy

Affiliate Kit Option:

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🔗 Pre-Built Raised Coop Kit with Built-In Run – Amazon

✔️ Designed for 6 birds, easy-access doors, and water-resistant paint

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✅ Option B: Ground-Level Coop with Attached Run

![Placeholder for drawing or sketch]

Footprint:

- Coop: 4 ft (W) x 6 ft (L) = 24 sq ft
- Run: 6 ft (W) x 10 ft (L) = 60 sq ft
- Nest boxes extend from the side for extra room

Why It Works:

- Perfect for flat backyards
- Coop is easier to access for families, children, or elderly keepers
- Lower to the ground = less materials and faster build
- Easy to expand the run later by adding panels

Build Enhancements:

- Use ½” hardware cloth buried 12” underground to prevent digging predators
- Place gravity-fed waterers just outside the coop entrance
- Add handles and wheels if you want to move the structure seasonally

Affiliate Kit Option:

🔗 Walk-In Ground-Level Coop Kit with Removable Roof – Amazon

✔️ Spacious enough for 6 hens, features hinged roof and nest box access door

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✅ Option C: Modular Coop + Run Kit (Expandable)

![Placeholder for drawing or sketch]

Footprint:

- Coop Box: 3 ft x 4 ft (expandable)
- Run Panels: Modular, from 6 ft x 6 ft up to 10 ft x 12 ft

Why It Works:

- Ideal if you want to start small and expand over time
- Fully customizable (add windows, new run panels, etc.)
- Great for renters or temporary builds

Perfect Pairing:

- Add a weather-resistant tarp over the run during winter
- Line the floor with removable plastic trays for easy clean-up
- Include clip-on LED coop lights for winter egg-laying support

Affiliate Kit Option:

🔗 Modular Chicken Coop & Run Expansion Kit – Amazon

✔️ Build over time with snap-in extensions and durable frame design

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📐 BUILD TIPS FOR ALL LAYOUTS

- Give 1 nesting box per 3 hens, with a slanted roof
- Roost bars should be 2–3 ft off the ground and 12” from the wall
- Keep ventilation high (near the roof) and protected with mesh

- Use predator-proof locks and latches on every access point

🧰 BONUS TIP: Think “People Access”

You’ll need to clean this coop, collect eggs, and add feed daily.

That’s why we recommend:

- Doors that open fully (hinged roof or side panel is best)
- A walk-in height run for comfort and cleaning
- Large coop access doors with predator locks for safety

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🪵 Stage 1: Building the Coop Base Frame

📐 Frame Dimensions:

- Width: 68 inches
- Depth: 48 inches
- Height (not yet added): Platform will sit 18–24 inches off the ground later

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🔩 Lumber Used:

Label	Description	Quantity	Size (inches)	Use
A	Long floor frame boards	2	68 x 3.5 x 1.5	Front and back of base
B	Short floor cross-supports	3	48 x 3.5 x 1.5	Side edges + middle brace

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🛠️ Assembly Steps:

1. Lay out the two A pieces (68” each) on a flat surface parallel to one another. These are your front and back of the frame.
2. Connect them with two B pieces (48”) at each end using 2.5” exterior wood screws — this forms a strong rectangle.
3. Add the third B piece in the middle as a centre support brace (position it at 24” from either side for even weight distribution).
4. Use a square tool to check all corners are 90 degrees before fully securing screws.

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🧰 Tools Needed:

- Drill with screw bit
- Measuring tape
- Wood clamps (optional but helpful)
- Carpenter’s square

📌 Pro Tip:

Mark screw positions in pencil before drilling. Always pre-drill holes if using untreated timber to avoid splitting.

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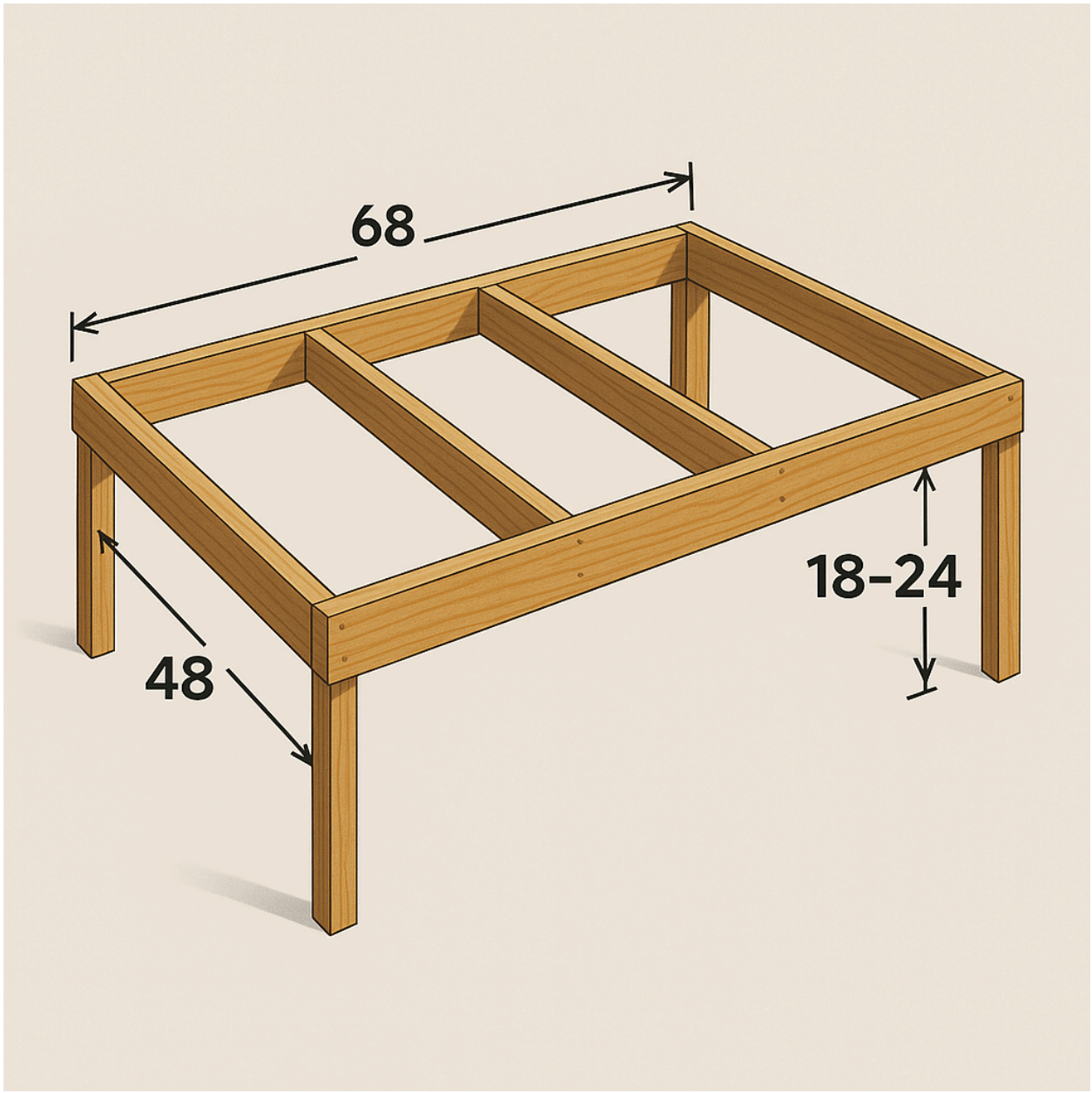

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🪵 Stage 2: Installing the Coop Floor Panel

📐 Floor Panel Dimensions:

- Width: 68 inches
- Depth: 48 inches
- Thickness: ¾ inch plywood (for strength and durability)

🔩 Lumber Used:

Label	Description	Quantity	Size (inches)	Use
I	Coop floor panel	1	68 x 48 x 0.75	Provides strong flooring over the base frame

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🛠️ Assembly Steps:

1. Place the plywood panel (I) on top of the completed base frame from Stage 1.
2. Ensure the edges are flush with the outer frame (A and B) on all four sides.
3. Use 1.25”–1.5” exterior screws to fasten the panel securely to the frame.
    - Start at one corner and work your way around to avoid warping.

    - Place screws approximately every 8–10 inches along all frame edges and across the centre support.

4. Walk across the panel lightly to confirm it's firmly secured and creak-free.

🧰 Tools Needed:

- Drill with countersink bit (optional, for smoother finish)
- Measuring tape
- Pencil for marking screw spots
- Work gloves

📌 Pro Tips:

- Use decking screws or plywood-specific screws for best long-term hold.
- Consider painting or sealing the plywood underside with waterproof sealant before installing, especially if your coop will sit close to damp ground.

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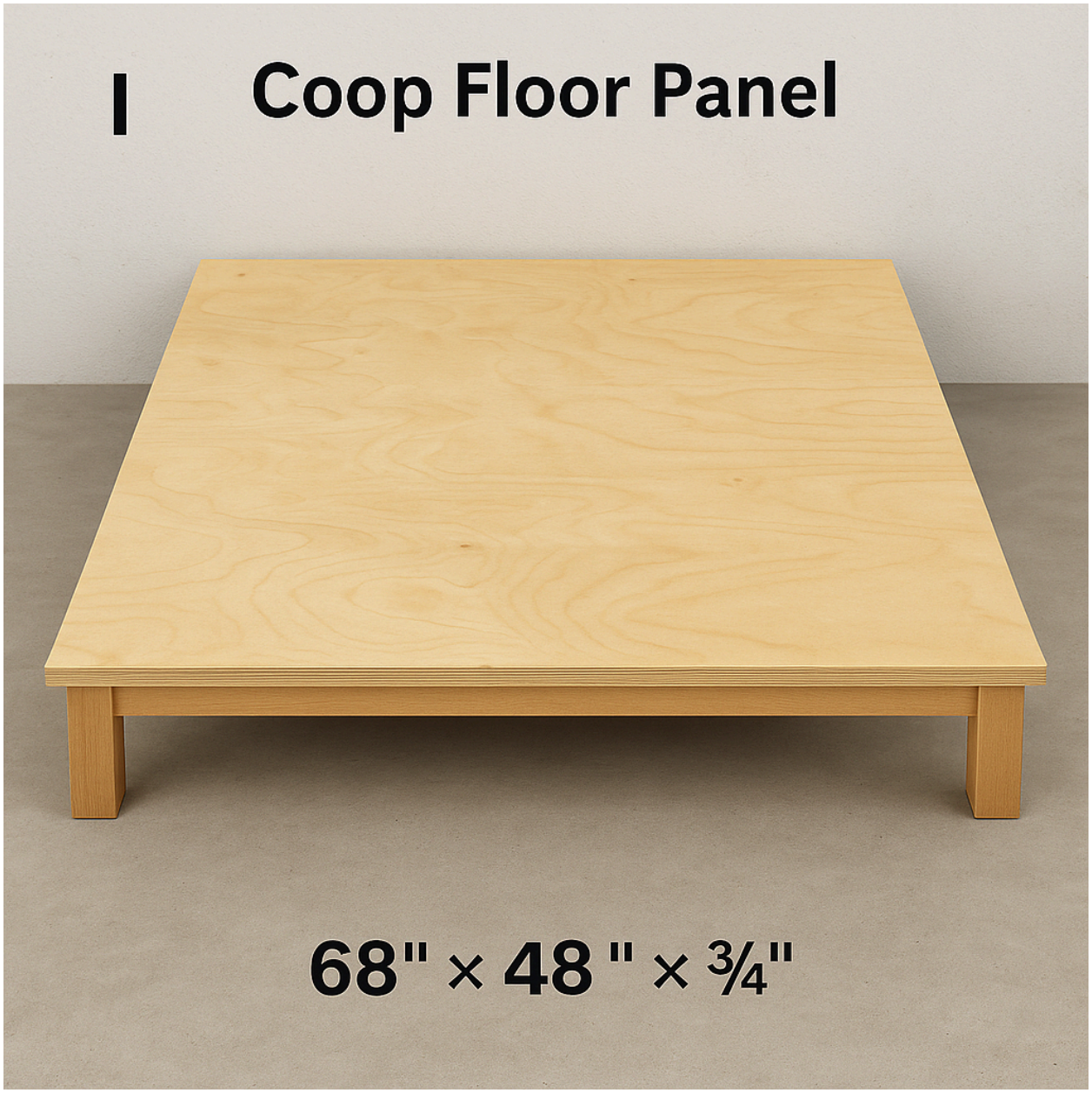

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🪵 Stage 3: Building the Side Wall Frames

📐 Side Wall Frame Dimensions:

- Length: 68 inches
- Height: 40 inches (standard front/back wall height)
- Note: You will build two side frames, one for each long side of the coop.

🔩 Lumber Used:

Label	Description	Quantity	Size (inches)	Use
C	Vertical wall studs	6	40 x 3.5 x 1.5	Upright supports for each side wall
D	Horizontal top & bottom rails	4	68 x 3.5 x 1.5	Top and bottom of each wall frame

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🛠️ Assembly Steps:

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1. Build two wall frames using 2 D pieces per wall (top and bottom rails) and 3 C pieces (studs) per wall.
2. Lay out two D boards parallel to each other (top and bottom).
3. Evenly space 3 C studs vertically between them (one at each end and one centred at 34”).
4. Secure each vertical stud using 2 screws per joint, making sure everything is square.
5. Repeat the process for the second side wall frame.

🧰 Tools Needed:

- Drill with screw bit
- Measuring tape
- Carpenter’s square
- Pencil or chalk line
- Saw (if not pre-cut)

📌 Pro Tips:

- For added weather resistance, apply wood sealant to each frame before installation.
- If planning to add chicken wire or mesh later, consider pre-drilling small pilot holes along the top and bottom rails.

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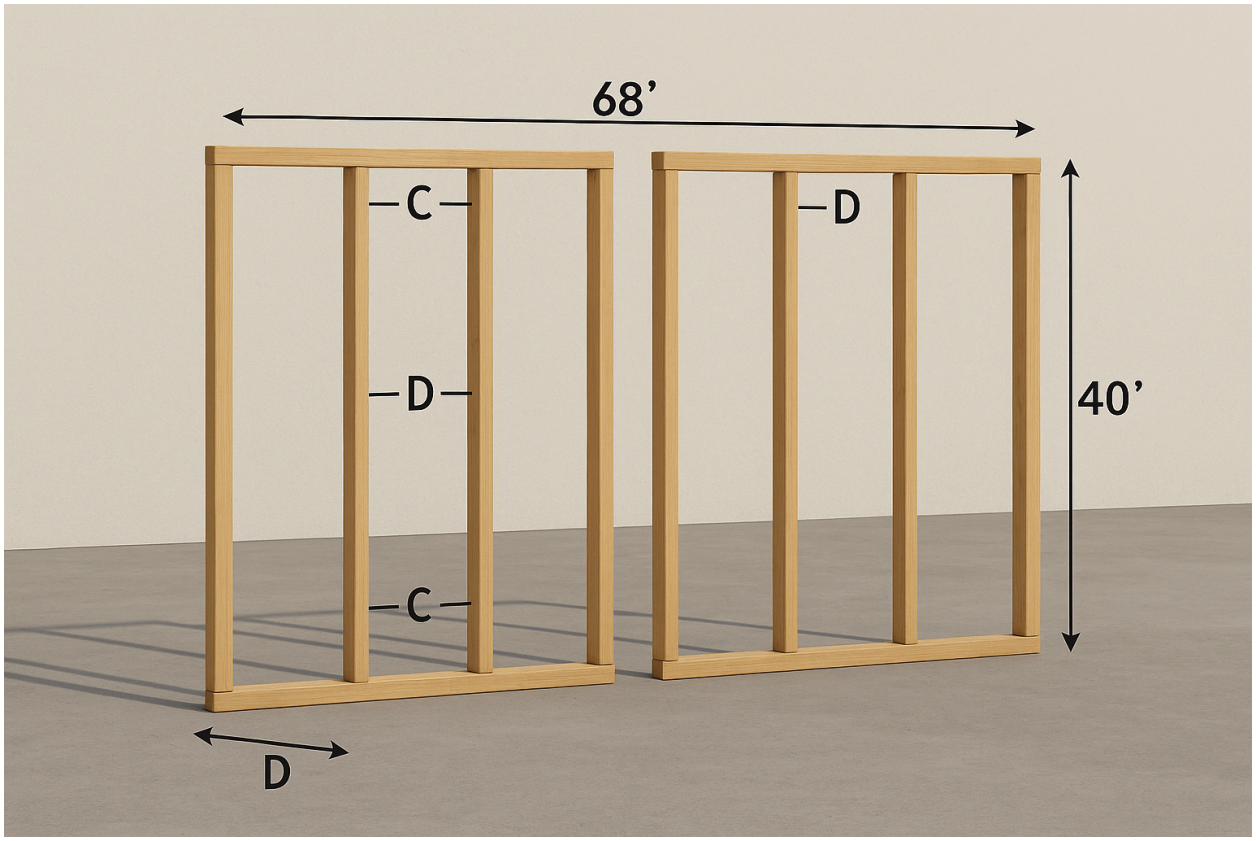

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🪵 Stage 4: Installing the Side Wall Frames

📐 Installed Frame Dimensions:

- Length (each frame): 68 inches
- Height: 40 inches
- Placement: One wall on each long side of the floor (left and right)

These side frames are now mounted vertically to start forming the coop's wall structure.

🔩 Lumber Used (from Cut List):

Label	Description	Quantity	Size (inches)	Use
C	Vertical wall posts	6	40 x 3.5 x 1.5	Upright studs for each wall
D	Side top/bottom wall sup	4	68 x 3.5 x 1.5	Rails on top and bottom of wall

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🛠️ Assembly Steps:

1. Position First Wall: Take one completed side wall frame and align it vertically on one long edge of the coop floor (Stage 2 panel).
2. Check for Flush Fit: Ensure the base of the wall frame is flush against the floor edge and rests evenly.

3. Pre-drill and Attach:
    - Use 2.5” exterior screws.
    - Drill through the bottom rail (D) of the wall frame into the coop base frame (A and B boards).
    - Add 4–5 screws spaced evenly across the length.
4. Brace Temporarily: Use clamps or angled timber to brace the wall upright while repeating the next side.
5. Repeat for Second Wall: Install the second wall frame on the opposite long edge of the floor. Make sure both side walls are parallel and vertical.
6. Secure Side-to-Floor Connection: Walk around both wall bases and ensure all screws are tight and flush with wood.

🧰 Tools Needed:

- Drill with 2.5” screw bit
- Carpenter’s level
- Measuring tape
- Clamps (optional, helpful for temporary bracing)
- Ladder or stool (if working alone)

📌 Pro Tips:

- Use a level to double-check vertical alignment before final screws.
- If the ground isn’t level where you’re building, use shims or temporary blocks under corners to balance the coop before continuing.
- Mark stud centres on the floor to guide screw placement from beneath.

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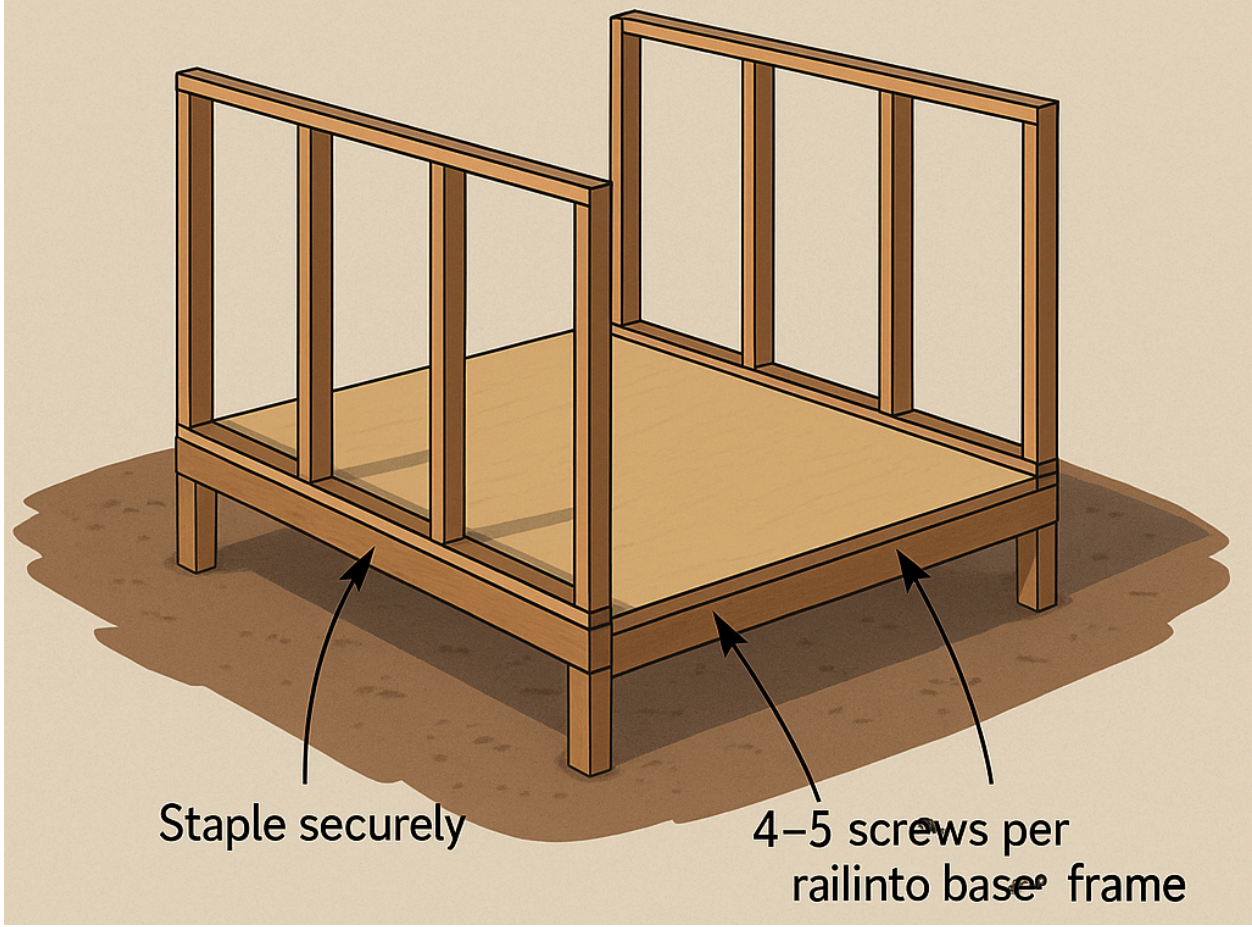
Stage 4: Install Side Walls

- Installed Height: 40”
- Screw Placement: 4–5 screws per bottom rail into base frame



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🪵 Stage 5: Constructing and Attaching the Front and Back Wall Frames

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📐 Front and Back Wall Frame Dimensions:

- Width: 48 inches
- Height: 40 inches
- Placement: One wall at each short end of the coop (front and back)

These walls complete the rectangular structure of your coop and provide support for the roof framing in the next stage.

🔩 Lumber Used (from Cut List):

Label	Description	Quantity	Size (inches)	Use
C	Vertical wall posts	4	40 x 3.5 x 1.5	Upright studs at wall corners
D	Side top/bottom wall sup	2	48 x 3.5 x 1.5	Top and bottom rails (front/back)

🛠️ Assembly Steps:

1. Frame Layout

- For each wall, place 2 vertical C pieces on either end, and D boards horizontally across the top and bottom.
- This forms a rectangle measuring 48” wide by 40” tall.

2. Screw and Square
    - Attach each C post to the top and bottom D boards using two screws per joint.
    - Ensure all corners form 90° angles using a carpenter’s square before tightening.
3. Install Front Frame
    - Position the assembled front frame vertically at one short end of the coop floor.
    - The bottom of the frame should rest flush on the plywood base (I) and align with the floor frame (B).
4. Secure with Screws
    - Drill through the bottom rail (D) into the coop floor using 2.5” exterior screws — about 4 per wall.
    - Repeat this step for the back wall on the opposite short end of the floor.
5. Check Alignment
    - Use a level to confirm both front and back walls are plumb (vertical) and parallel to each other and the side walls.

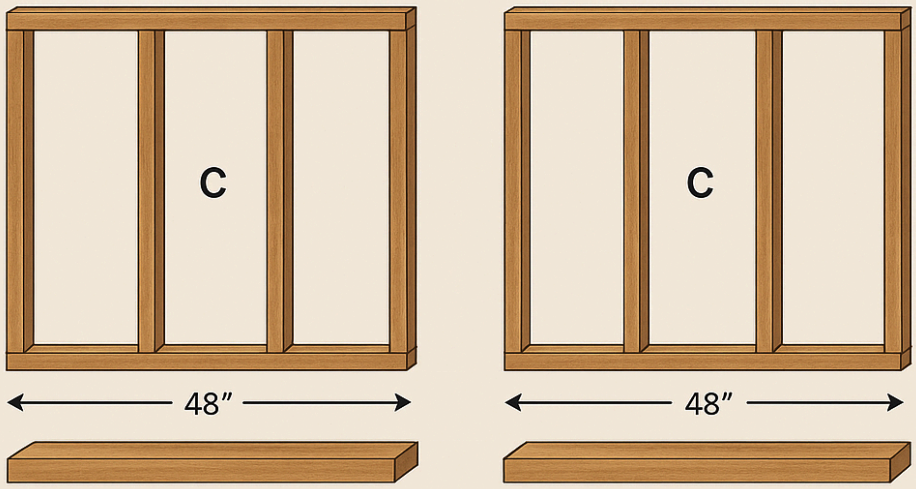
🧰 Tools Needed:

- Drill with 2.5” screw bit
- Carpenter’s square
- Measuring tape
- Clamps or temporary bracing (optional)
- Spirit level

📌 Pro Tips:

- This is a great time to pre-plan your door cutout on the front wall — mark its centre and height before moving on.
- Seal joints with exterior wood glue before screwing for extra durability in wet weather.
- Double-check all 4 walls form a clean rectangle and are not leaning inward or outward.

Stage 5: Front & Back Wall Frames



Each Frame: 48″ (W) × 40″ (H)

C (Vertical studs): 4 pcs @ 40″ × 3.5″ × 1.5″

D (Rails): 2 pcs @ 48″ × 3.5″ × 1.5″

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🪵 Stage 6: Sheathing the Coop Walls with Exterior Panels

📐 Wall Panel Dimensions:

- Side Panels (H): 48 in wide × 64 in tall — covers the long walls
- Front & Back Panels (G): 68 in wide × 48 in tall — covers the short walls

These panels close in the coop and give structure and weather protection. You're now transforming the frame into a solid, enclosed shelter!

🔩 Lumber/Materials Used (from Cut List):

Label	Description	Quantity	Size (inches)	Use
G	Coop front/back wall panels	2	68 × 48 × 0.5	Attach to front and back wall frames
H	Coop side wall panels	2	48 × 64 × 0.5	Attach to side wall frames

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🛠️ Assembly Steps:

1. Place Side Wall Panels (H):
    - Hold one side panel vertically against a side wall frame.
    - Align the bottom of the panel flush with the floor panel (I).

- Ensure the left and right edges are even with the wall frame posts (C).

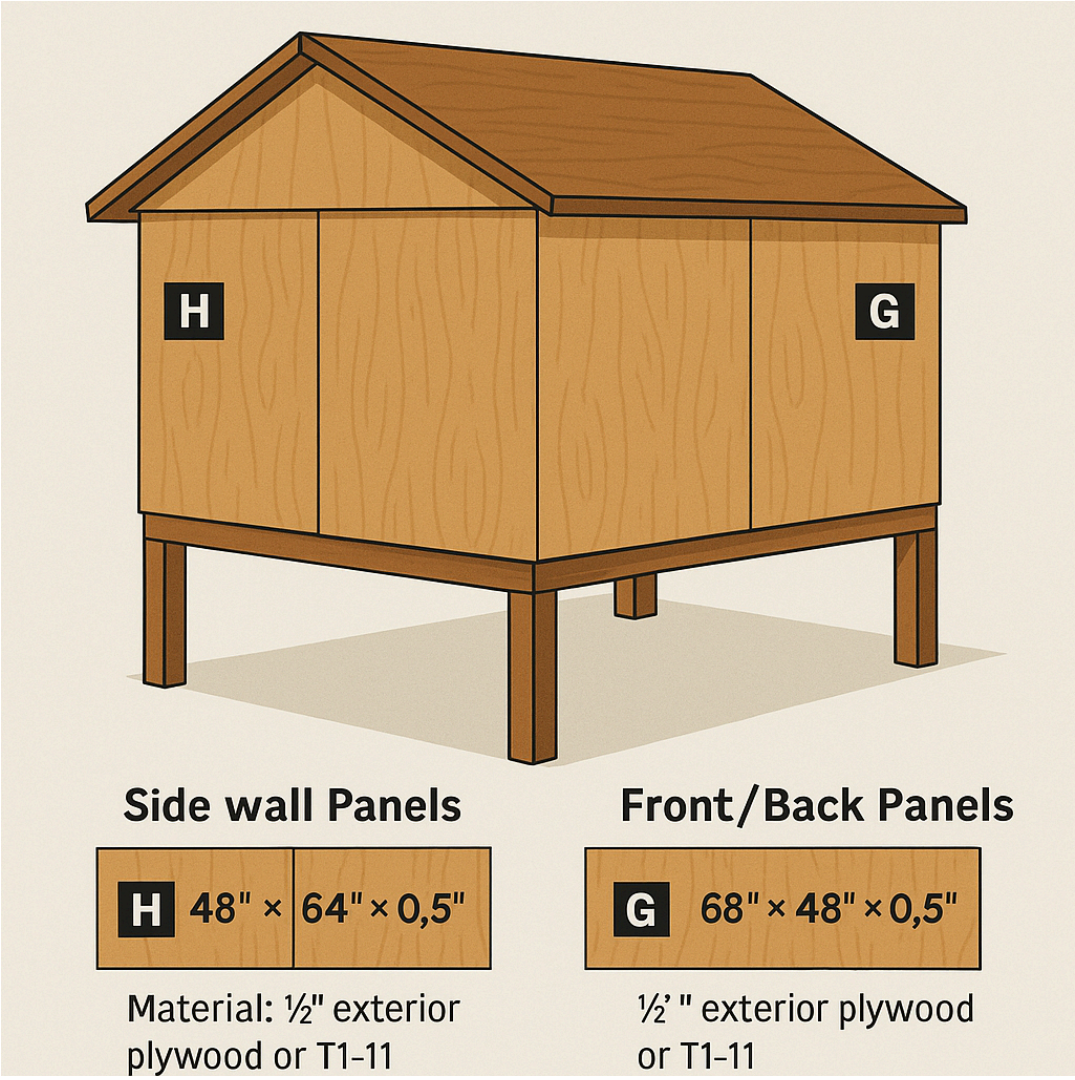
2. Attach Side Panels:
    - Use 1.25–1.5” exterior screws or nails.
    - Secure panel to every vertical stud and top/bottom rail (D), placing fasteners every 8–10 inches.
    - Repeat for the second side.
3. Attach Front and Back Panels (G):
    - Line up each 68 × 48” panel over the front and back wall frames.
    - Bottom edge should align with the floor (I), and side edges should slightly overlap the side panel edges for a snug corner.
    - Screw/nail into the top and bottom rails and studs (C + D) every 8–10 inches.
4. Trim or Cut for Openings:
    - If you’re planning a door or window, mark their outlines now.
    - Use a jigsaw to cut through the panel once attached.

🧰 Tools Needed:

- Drill or hammer (depending on fasteners)
- Measuring tape
- Pencil or chalk line
- Jigsaw (if cutting window or door holes)
- Ladder or step stool

📌 Pro Tips:

- Consider painting or waterproof sealing the back of each panel before attaching — especially if your climate is damp.
- Attach corner trim later to clean up any imperfect panel joins and improve weatherproofing.
- Use construction adhesive in addition to screws for an extra-sturdy bond, especially in windy areas.



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🪵 Stage 7: Framing and Attaching the Roof Rafters

📐 Roof Structure Dimensions:

- Rafter Length (E): 60 inches (angled cuts)
- Ridge Beam (F): 68 inches (flat cut)
- Roof Pitch: ~30–35 degrees depending on your angled cut

This stage gives your coop its classic sloped roof profile and creates the base to support roofing material.

🔩 Lumber Used (from Cut List):

Label	Description	Quantity	Size (inches)	Use
E	Roof rafters (angled cuts)	4	60 × 3.5 × 1.5	Sloped roof supports (2 per side)
F	Roof ridge beam (flat)	2	68 × 3.5 × 1.5	Horizontal ridge at roof peak

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🛠️ Assembly Steps:

1. Angle Cut Rafters (E):
    - Cut both ends of each E board at 30–35° to form a triangle with the ridge beam.
    - You should end up with 2 pairs of matching angled rafters.
2. Build Roof Trusses:
    - Attach one rafter from each side to meet at the top, forming an inverted “V”.
    - Join the top ends with a ridge beam (F), securing with screws or metal rafter brackets.
    - Repeat this process for both rafter pairs (front and back trusses).
3. Mount the Trusses to Walls:
    - Position one completed truss over the front wall frame, aligning it centrally.
    - Secure through the bottom of each rafter into the top wall plates using 2.5” screws.
    - Repeat for the back truss.
4. Install Second Ridge Beam (F):
    - Between the two trusses, attach the second ridge beam across the top of the coop to connect the front and back.
    - Use screws or angled brackets to secure ends into rafter pairs.

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🧰 Tools Needed:

- Saw (for angled cuts)
- Drill with screw bit
- Measuring tape
- Carpenter’s square
- Ladder or scaffold
- Metal brackets or gusset plates (optional but helpful)

📌 Pro Tips:

- Mark centrepoints on the wall frames before placing trusses to keep everything aligned.
- Use temporary braces to hold rafters in position while installing the ridge beam.
- For more advanced framing, add horizontal collar ties between opposing rafters to increase stability.

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🪵 Stage 8: Attaching the Coop Wall Panels

📐 Wall Panel Coverage:

- Side Walls: 2 large panels (48” x 64”)
- Front and Back Walls: 2 panels (68” x 48”)
- Material: ½” exterior-grade plywood or treated sheathing
- Purpose: Encloses the structure, adds rigidity, and prepares for doors, vents, and nest box cutouts.

🔩 Lumber/Materials Used (from Cut List):

Label	Description	Quantity	Size (inches)	Use
G	Coop front/back panels	2	68 x 48 x 0.5	Covers the front and back walls
H	Coop side wall panels	2	48 x 64 x 0.5	Covers each long side wall

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🛠️ Assembly Steps:

1. Place Side Wall Panels (H)

   • Line up the bottom edge of the side panel with the floor (I)

   • Secure it to all vertical studs (C) and horizontal rails (D) using 1.5”–2” exterior screws or nails every 10–12 inches
   • Repeat on the opposite side

2. Place Front and Back Panels (G)

   • Align the bottom edge with the floor, and the side edges flush with the frame

   • Secure across all C and D framing members

   • Cut out door and window openings now if desired (mark before attaching)

3. Check All Corners and Edges

   • Ensure flush edges where side and front/back panels meet

   • Use a jigsaw to trim excess or create window/vent openings

4. Seal Edges and Seams

   • Apply exterior-grade caulk along all seams to improve water resistance

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🧰 Tools Needed:

- Drill or nail gun
- 1.5”–2” exterior screws/nails
- Jigsaw (for openings)

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- Measuring tape

- Carpenter’s square
- Caulking gun + exterior sealant

📌 Pro Tips:

- Mark and pre-cut any door or window openings while the panel is flat on sawhorses — much easier than doing it vertical

- Use T1-11 or groove-textured sheathing for added visual appeal

- Label your panels (G or H) in pencil to avoid misplacement

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🪵 Stage 9: Installing Wall Cladding and Attaching the Coop Door

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📐 Overview of this Stage:

This step transforms your framed structure into an enclosed coop. You'll add wall cladding panels and install a door at the front for access. You can use plywood, T1-11 siding, or weatherboard for cladding — depending on your style and weatherproofing needs.

🔩 Materials Used (from Cut List):

Label	Description	Quantity	Size (inches)	Use
G	Coop front/back wall pan.	2	68 x 48 x 0.5	Encloses front and back walls
H	Coop side wall panels	2	48 x 64 x 0.5	Encloses left and right side walls
R	Run door frame (optional)	1	36 x 72 (assembled)	Entry door for access (front wall)

🛠️ Assembly Steps:

🪚 Cladding the Walls

1. Measure & Dry Fit Panels

   • Place each cladding panel (G and H) against its corresponding wall frame to check fit.

   • Mark window or door cutouts if needed.

2. Trim If Necessary

   • Use a circular saw to trim around studs or window openings if applicable.

3. Attach Panels

   • Use 1.25”–1.5” exterior wood screws or nails.

   • Place fasteners every 8–10 inches along all studs.

   • Start from the bottom and ensure panels are level as you go.

🚪 Attaching the Front Door

4. Assemble the Door Frame (if not pre-built)

   • Use cut pieces from Label R to create a 36” x 72” frame.

   • Add bracing or a crossbar for stability.

5. Hinge Door to Frame

   • Use 2–3 heavy-duty hinges.

   • Screw the hinges into the vertical wall stud (C) on one side of the front wall frame.

6. Install Latch and Handle

   • Add a locking latch or barrel bolt to the opposite side for secure closure.

   • Attach a handle at a comfortable height.

7. Test the Door

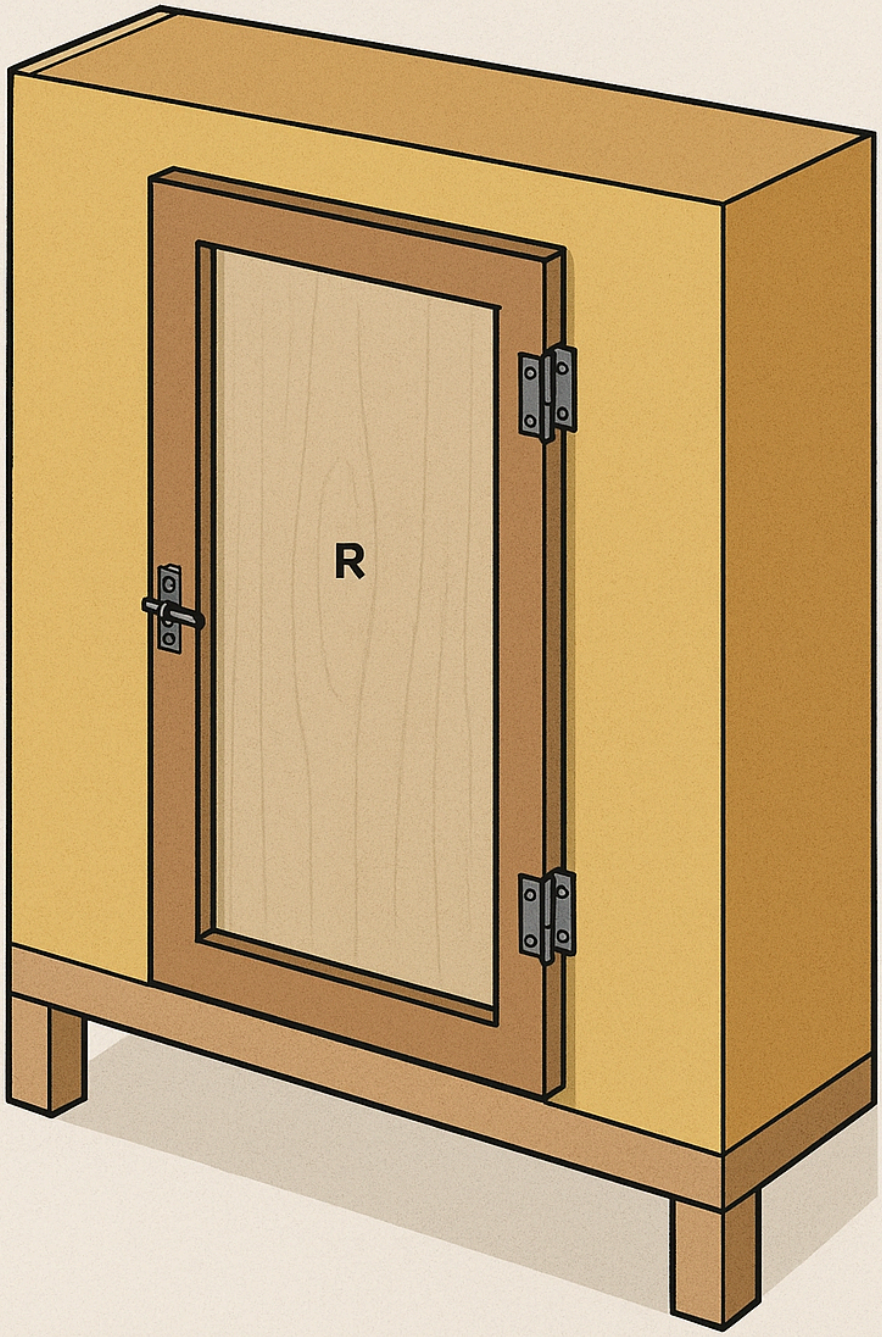
    • Ensure it swings freely, closes tightly, and aligns flush with the wall.

🧰 Tools Needed:

- Circular saw or jigsaw
- Power drill + screwdriver bit
- Exterior wood screws or nails
- Level
- Measuring tape
- Pencil or chalk
- Hinges, latch, and handle kit

📌 Pro Tips:

- Apply primer or outdoor sealant to all cladding panels before attaching to extend their life.
- If adding insulation or predator-proof mesh, do so before sealing up the final wall.
- You can use trim boards to cover panel seams or screw lines for a cleaner finish.



Stage 9: Front Door

- **Door Frame (R):** 1 pc @ 36" (W) × 72" (H)
- **Hinges:** 2–3 heavy-duty
- **Latch:** Standard barrel bolt or locking latch

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🔨 Stage 10: Building and Attaching the Chicken Run

📐 Run Dimensions (Recommended):

- Length: 72 inches (6 feet)
- Width: 36 inches (3 feet)
- Height: 48 inches (4 feet)
- Door: Optional framed opening for easy access

The chicken run gives your hens protected outdoor space to roam while staying safe from predators.

🔩 Lumber Used (from Cut List):

Label	Description	Quantity	Size (inches)	Use
O	Run posts (vertical)	4	48 x 3.5 x 1.5	Upright supports for each corner
P	Run horizontal framing (sides)	4	72 x 3.5 x 1.5	Long top and bottom rails
Q	Run short horizontal framing	4	36 x 3.5 x 1.5	Short rails to complete frame corners

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R	Run door frame (optional)	4	36 x 2 x 2	Door framing and brace (if included)

🛠️ Assembly Steps:

1. Frame the Run Base:
    - Lay out 2 P pieces (sides) and 2 Q pieces (front/back) in a rectangle.
    - Attach with exterior screws to form the base rectangle.
2. Add Vertical Posts:
    - Attach one O post at each corner of the base frame using screws.
    - Make sure posts are plumb (vertically straight) using a level.
3. Top Frame:
    - Repeat Step 1 using the remaining P and Q pieces to form the top frame.
    - Secure each corner of the top frame to the tops of the vertical O posts.
4. Optional Run Door:
    - Use R pieces to construct a door frame (36” x 36”) and attach with hinges to the front short side of the run.
    - Secure with a simple latch or hook lock.
5. Attach Wire Mesh or Chicken Wire:
    - Staple ½” hardware cloth or chicken wire along all run sides.
    - Stretch taut and fasten every 4–6 inches.
    - Cover the top for extra predator protection.
    - Optionally bury mesh 6–12” into the ground around the base for added safety.

Images and measurements are a guide only - please modify to space / style requirements.

6. Connect Run to Coop:
    - Cut a small pop door (approx. 12” x 12”) on one coop side wall.
    - Attach run frame tightly against the coop, aligning openings.
    - Screw the run directly to the coop frame or use metal L-brackets for extra strength.

🧰 Tools Needed:

- Drill with screw bit
- Staple gun or fencing staples
- Wire cutters or tin snips
- Measuring tape
- Level and square
- Hinges, latch (optional door)

📌 Pro Tips:

- Consider a sloped roof or tarp over the run for shade and rain protection.
- Add a perch or log inside the run to encourage natural behaviour.
- Use treated wood for run framing if your location is wet or humid.

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🔒 Stage 11: Adding Hardware Cloth & Final Mesh Protection

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📐 Mesh Installation Overview:

• Coverage: Coop ventilation gaps, windows, and full run frame

• Type: ¼” galvanized hardware cloth (recommended for predator protection)

• Method: Stapled or screwed with fender washers

These mesh layers provide critical protection against predators while allowing airflow and visibility for your flock.

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🔩 Materials & Tools Needed:

• 🧰 ¼” hardware cloth rolls (at least 48” wide)

• 🧰 Tin snips or heavy-duty scissors

• 🧰 Staples (⅜” heavy-duty) or ¾” screws with fender washers

• 🧰 Gloves (edges can be sharp!)

• 🧰 Tape measure

• 🧰 Drill (if using washers)

• 🧰 Staple gun (manual or pneumatic)

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🛠️ Assembly Steps:

1. Measure & Cut Panels

    ☐ Measure each open wall frame and run panel section

☐ Cut hardware cloth panels slightly larger than each opening

2. Coop Wall Sections

☐ Attach mesh on windows or cutouts from inside

☐ Use fender washers & screws every 6–8” OR staple securely

☐ Trim any excess and fold sharp corners

3. Run Frame Protection

☐ Wrap mesh around each section of the run: sides, top, and one door

☐ Overlap corners by at least 2” and secure all edges

☐ Optionally bury 12” of mesh outward from the base to deter digging predators

4. Ventilation Openings

☐ If ventilation gaps exist at the coop roof or wall tops, cover internally with mesh
☐ Leave gaps for airflow but not wide enough for rodents

5. Final Check

☐ Ensure every edge is stapled, screwed, or folded back to avoid injuries
☐ Test door operation and ensure hinges are not obstructed

📌 Pro Tips:

• Use poultry-safe rust-proof mesh—galvanized or PVC-coated preferred

• Always wear gloves—cut mesh can slice skin easily

• For a tidy finish, install mesh inside the coop panels where possible

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✅ Framing & Roof Structure Checklist

🛠️ Use this checklist as your go-to guide during construction. Tick off each item as you go!

🔨 Stage 1: Building the Base Floor Frame

✔️ Cut and label lumber:

☐ A (68”) – Floor long supports (x2)

☐ B (48”) – Floor short supports (x3)

✔️ Assemble floor frame:

☐ Lay out A and B boards in a rectangle

☐ Screw all joints using 2.5” exterior screws

☐ Check for square corners

🔨 Stage 2: Installing the Floor Panel

✔️ Install plywood panel:

☐ I – 68” x 48” x ¾” floor panel

☐ Lay panel on frame and align edges

☐ Screw panel down (screws every 8–10”)

☐ Walk across panel to confirm no creaks

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🔨 Stage 3: Building Side Wall Frames

✔️ Cut and label:

☐ C – 40” studs (x6 total, 3 per wall)

☐ D – 68” rails (x4, 2 per wall)

✔️ Assemble two side walls:

☐ Place D rails top & bottom

☐ Position C studs at both ends + centre

☐ Screw together with 2 screws per joint

☐ Check for square

🔨 Stage 4: Installing Side Wall Frames

✔️ Mount frames upright:

☐ One side wall per long edge

☐ Check flush alignment with floor

☐ Screw D rails into base using 2.5” screws

☐ Use clamps or temporary bracing

☐ Confirm vertical with spirit level

🔨 Stage 5: Building & Attaching Front/Back Wall Frames

✔️ Cut and label:

☐ C – 40” studs (x4, 2 per wall)

☐ D – 48” rails (x2, 1 per wall)

✔️ Assemble & attach:

☐ Build rectangle 48” x 40”

☐ Screw joints using carpenter’s square

☐ Position on short edges of coop

☐ Screw through bottom rail into base

☐ Confirm all four walls are plumb

🏗️ Stage 6: Preparing Rafters & Ridge Beam

✔️ Cut & label:

☐ E – 60” rafters with 45° angled cuts (x4)

☐ F – 68” flat ridge beam (x2)

✔️ Pair and mark:

☐ Match opposing rafters (L/R)

☐ Mark ridge connection points

☐ Confirm angle cut meets cleanly

🏗️ Stage 7: Installing Roof Framing

✔️ Assemble rafter pairs:

☐ Join each rafter pair to ridge beam (F)

☐ Use wood glue and screws

☐ Dry-fit first A-frame before securing

✔️ Install framing:

☐ Position A-frame on front end

☐ Align rafter feet to top wall plates

☐ Screw down into top of C studs

☐ Repeat for back roof frame

☐ Connect both ridge beams securely

☐ Confirm level with spirit level

📌 Final Roof Frame Check

☐ Rafters sit flush on top walls

☐ Ridge beam runs straight and level

☐ Frames are square and secure

☐ All screws tight — ready for roofing!

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🐔 Bonus: Must-Have DIY Chicken Coop Tools & Supplies

Curated by UrbanPetLife.com – Premium picks for your DIY coop and chicken run project.

These are the exact product types we feature in our YouTube tutorials and handbook build instructions.

🧰 Essential Tools for Every Builder

🎥 Used in Stages 1–4: Frame & Floor Construction

✅ Tool	🏆 Recommended Product	🔗 Link
Cordless Power Drill	DEWALT 20V MAX Drill/Driver Kit	View on Amazon
Carpenter's Square	Swanson Speed Square Tool	View on Amazon
Quick-Grip Clamps	IRWIN QUICK-GRIP 6" Mini Clamps (4-Pack)	View on Amazon
Measuring Tape	Stanley FatMax 25-Foot Tape Measure	View on Amazon
Screwdriver Kit	CRAFTSMAN 15-Piece Multi-bit Set	View on Amazon

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🔩 Hardware & Fasteners

🎥 Used across Stages 1, 5, 6, 9 and more

✅ Hardware	🏆 Best Choice	🔗 Link
Wood Screws	GRK 2.5” Exterior Self-Tapping Screws	View on Amazon
Door Hinges	National Hardware N195-677 3” Hinges	View on Amazon
Latches	Stanley Hardware Lockable Hasp & Staple	View on Amazon
Roofing Screws	Hillman Power Pro Roof Screws (100-Pack)	View on Amazon
Waterproof Wood Glue	Titebond III Ultimate Wood Glue	View on Amazon

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🪵 Building Materials Online

🎥 Featured in Stages 2–6: Floor, Wall, Roof Framing

✅ Material	🏆 Best Product	🔗 Link
Plywood Panels	Columbia Forest ¾” Birch Plywood (Project Panel)	View on Amazon
Roof Panels	Suntuf Polycarbonate Corrugated Roof Panel	View on Amazon
Welded Wire Mesh	MTB ½” Galvanised Hardware Cloth (25 ft Roll)	View on Amazon
Lumber (framing)	Yard & Garden Pressure-Treated Pine	View on Amazon
Cladding	Ready Pine Tongue & Groove Planks	View on Amazon

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🐣 Coop Accessories & Comfort Upgrades

🎥 Stage 13: Finishing Touches + Maintenance

✅ Accessory	🏆 Top Pick	🔗 Link
Automatic Door	RUN-CHICKEN Model T50 Auto Door	View on Amazon
Feeder & Waterer	RentACoop Hanging Chicken Feeder Kit	View on Amazon
Nesting Liners	My Favorite Chicken Washable Nest Pads (6-pack)	View on Amazon
Motion Light	AmeriTop 3-Head LED Solar Security Light	View on Amazon
Predator Light	Aspectek Predator Eye Nighttime Deterrent	View on Amazon

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🧰 Visit our website for more Coop information→ urbanpetlife.com/tools

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