

New Chick Checklist 🚺

Chicks thrive in ideal conditions, so consider these tips getting started:

Heat: Suspend a warm bulb about a foot above the brooder floor for warmth – and have a second bulb on hand in case one burns out. Keep temps in the brooder about 90–95 degrees F for the first week, decreasing about 5 degrees per week. Raise the light as chicks grow.

Environment: Be sure your brooder is big enough so your chicks can move about comfortably. Keep it out of drafts. Stock tanks, plastic tubs and homemade brooders are a few good options. Do not allow the brooder to become wet or damp.

Bedding: Pine wood shavings are ideal. Avoid straw & newspaper as these become slippery for chicks. Clean bedding daily.

Water: Be sure clean, fresh water is always available. Dip chick beaks into water and let them drink 4–5 hours before introducing feed. Elevating the waterer a couple inches off the floor will help it stay clean and prevent bedding from contaminating it.

Feed: Scatter feed on the brooder floor so chicks can find it at first. Then place in a feeder. Have chick starter feed available 24/7. Your chicks will eat just what they need. One chick will eat about 10 pounds of chick starter in its first weeks of life. There are some great options available when considering chick starter feeds.

