

Special thanks to chemosh6969 from the somethingawful forums:

Here's the portable chicken coop I built. It may look not very portable but it's pretty balanced and easy to move lifting from the bottom. If I'm by myself, I can just drag it.

It's 4x4x4 with the floor about a foot off the ground, so it's 3' high on the inside for my 3 chickens. I bought a chicken run before building the coop and it cost about twice as much as the coop, which was around \$40. At least I can use it as a base for when I make the run about 3-4 times as long.

The frame is 2x2s and plywood for the side.



Three chickens: golden Wyandotte; barred rock; and black Sexlink. The rock is the one in charge out of this group.



I have a platform for the food, which is just a shelf sitting on top of the bedding, so that the food doesn't get buried as fast.



I went with the deep litter method for the inside. The door is about 12" up from the floor. I started with 6" of bedding and stir it about once a week but the chickens do a good job of that on their own. Around the first of the month I add more bedding to cover up the old, usually about an inch or so. I've also added food grade DE to help dry the stuff out faster as well as mite prevention.

Going by other people that do this, the smell shouldn't be bad, which right now there is none. I also shouldn't have to clean anything out for about a year, or at least when the bedding gets up to the door level.



While they sit on the roost during the day, they all sleep in the box on the right at night. When they first got the courage to go outside, they wanted to roost in the door frame. I'd gently push them off and by the time I got them all off, the leader would be hopping back on. Then I discovered I had to knock them all in at the same time and quickly close the door. A couple nights of that and they moved to sleeping in the box.

