BASIC SUPPLY LIST FOR YOUNG CHICKS

- **Brooder** - This can be as simple as a cardboard box that has sides that are at least 12 inches in height, or a similar-sized plastic tub (just make sure there is plenty of ventilation). Baby swimming pools have even been used successfully. Week-old chicks don’t need much room, but as they grow make sure that they continue to have enough space for activity and safety (this may mean switching to a bigger brooder at a later date).

- **Heat Source** – Baby chicks need plenty of warmth – under natural circumstances they cuddle under their momma’s wing during this time. The first week of their life they require a constant temperature of around 95 degrees, and each additional week the required temperature drops by 5 degrees. A red heat bulb (250 watts) and reflector hood are the best options – regular incandescent bulbs can’t provide adequate temperatures. And be sure to provide enough space that chicks can “cool off” in a corner away from the heat light if needed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>95 Degrees Fahrenheit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>90 Degrees Fahrenheit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>85 Degrees Fahrenheit</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>80 Degrees Fahrenheit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>75 Degrees Fahrenheit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>70 Degrees Fahrenheit or room temperature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>65 Degrees Fahrenheit or room temperature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Room temperature</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Watch your chicks’ behavior for clues; if they huddle together in a “dog pile” under the light then the temperature is probably too cold. If they are far away from the heat lamp and trying to avoid the heat lamp then it is probably too hot!

- **Thermometer** – A simple thermometer kept in the brooder (where chicks can’t reach) will help you regulate temperatures.

- **Bedding** – A one inch layer of pine shavings (NOT cedar!) is best. Newspapers are too slick for young chicks and can cause leg injuries. Bedding should be changed regularly to prevent contamination.

- **Drinker/Waterer** – Waterers designed specifically for chicks are recommended. Open dishes are not recommended due to the dangers of drowning and contamination (chicks poop *everywhere*).

- **Optional – Chick Electrolytes** – This is a liquid or powder that is added to water for chicks; especially helpful if you are receiving day-old chicks via mail.

- **Feeder** – Feeders designed specifically for chicks are recommended. Open-dish feeders quickly become contaminated with chick poop.

- **Feed** – Whether you choose organic or standard, crumbles or mash, or medicated or unmedicated feed is up to you, just be sure you are choosing “starter feed” that is specially made for chicks.

- **Netting** – You will need some sort of netting or chicken wire to cover the top of your brooder – this will keep the chicks in and predators out.

- **Book on Chick/Chicken Care** – Choose whichever title best fits your needs and browsing style.
BASIC SUPPLY LIST FOR PULLETS/CHICKENS

- **Coop** – Basic coop requirements include the following:
  - Predator proof (top, bottom, sides) – make sure the coop cannot be access by cats, dogs, raccoons and hawks.
  - Secure from rats and mice (that will be attracted to the feed)
  - Adjustable ventilation for all weather
  - Easy to clean
  - Roosting poles for sleeping (2” wide, 5” to 10” space per bird)
  - Nesting boxes – 1 of sufficient size for every four chickens
  - Bedding – popular choices include pine shavings, straw and sand.
  - Space – at least 4 sq. ft. per bird if the birds are able to roam freely during the day, and at least 10 sq. ft. per bird if they are permanently confined.

- **Enclosed Run** – This area should provide plenty of roaming space for the birds, plus be easy to access and clean.

- **Feeder and Waterer** – Feeders and waterers made specifically for chickens are recommended. Open dishes are discouraged due to contamination concerns. They should be raised several inches off the ground (preferably via hanging) to prevent mice from accessing them.

- **Food** - Whether you choose organic or standard, crumbles or pellets, or medicated or unmedicated feed is up to you, just be sure you are choosing feed for laying hens if your girls are at least 19 weeks of age.

- **Grit** – This is needed (in small doses) if chickens are not free-ranging.

- **Book on Chick/Chicken Care** – Choose whichever title best fits your needs and browsing style.

- **Optional – Dust Bath Box** – A medium-sized box filled with sand will suffice if birds do not have access to dirt-filled areas in a yard.

- **Optional – Chicken Scratch** – There is very little nutrition in chicken scratch, so it should be used sparingly (usually as a once-a-day treat).