

Winterizing the Chicken Coop & Run Checklist + DIY Blueprint

✓ Winterizing Checklist

- Inspect coop for drafts; seal cracks while keeping upper ventilation open.
- Add 4–6 inches of pine shavings or straw for deep-litter warmth.
- Install safe insulation such as foam board covered with plywood.
- Use heated waterers or rotate metal waterers to prevent freezing.
- Add wind blocks in the run using tarps or clear plastic.
- Create a dry, covered outdoor area for dust bathing.
- Check roofing for leaks and reinforce as needed.
- Ensure predator-proofing: secure latches, hardware cloth, and perimeter.

■ Additional Chicken Run Blueprint

This blueprint outlines construction of an 8 ft x 12 ft secondary run that attaches to the existing coop. Measurements are approximate and can be scaled to fit your space.

1. Build the Base Frame: Construct an 8 ft x 12 ft rectangle using treated 2x4 lumber.
2. Add Vertical Posts: Install vertical 2x4s every 4 ft around the perimeter.
3. Top Frame: Mirror the base frame on top, securing it to vertical posts.
4. Hardware Cloth: Wrap all sides with $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch hardware cloth, including a 12-inch ground apron.
5. Gate: Build a small gate from 2x4s, cover with hardware cloth, and attach with hinges + latch.
6. Covered Roof Section: Install corrugated roofing over one-third of the run, angled for snow runoff.
7. Connect to Coop: Cut a small opening or attach directly to existing run using hardware-clothed tunnel.
8. Enrichment: Add logs, perches, dust bath, and hanging vegetables for winter boredom.

This checklist and blueprint can be printed and added to your homestead binder for easy seasonal reference.