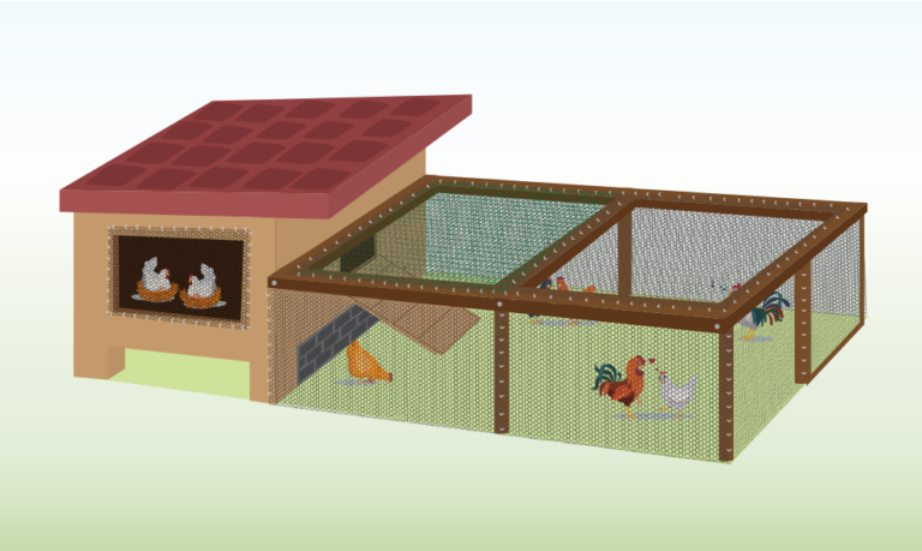
How to Build a Chicken Run

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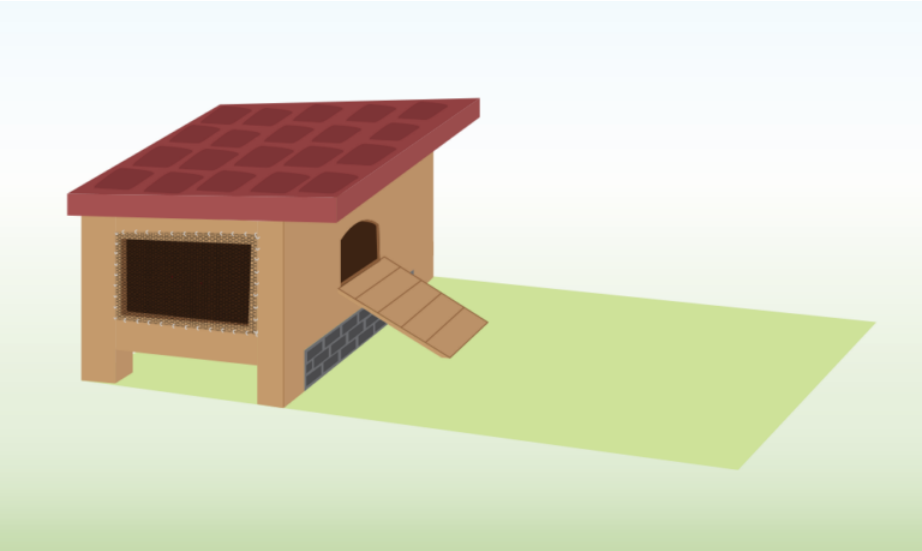
Below you will find a step by step guide on how to build a chicken run for your existing chicken coop.



OVERVIEW

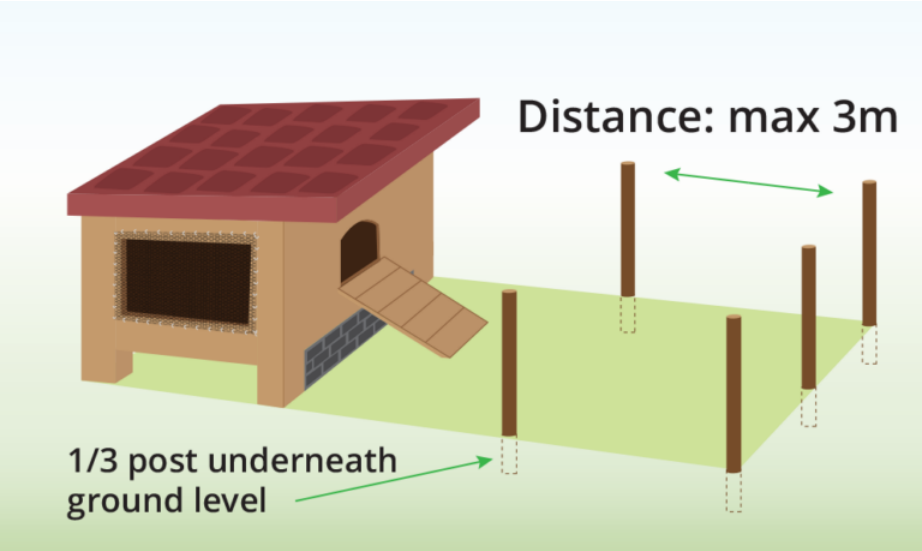
- **Estimated Completion Time:** 2-3 days
- **Experience Required:** Medium
- **Tools Required:** Shovel, Hammer, Wire Cutters, Saw, Nails / Screws
- **Materials Required:** Chicken wire, Staples / Cable ties**,** Shade netting (optional), Wooden Planks, Wooden Fence Posts

STEP 1) Plan for Size



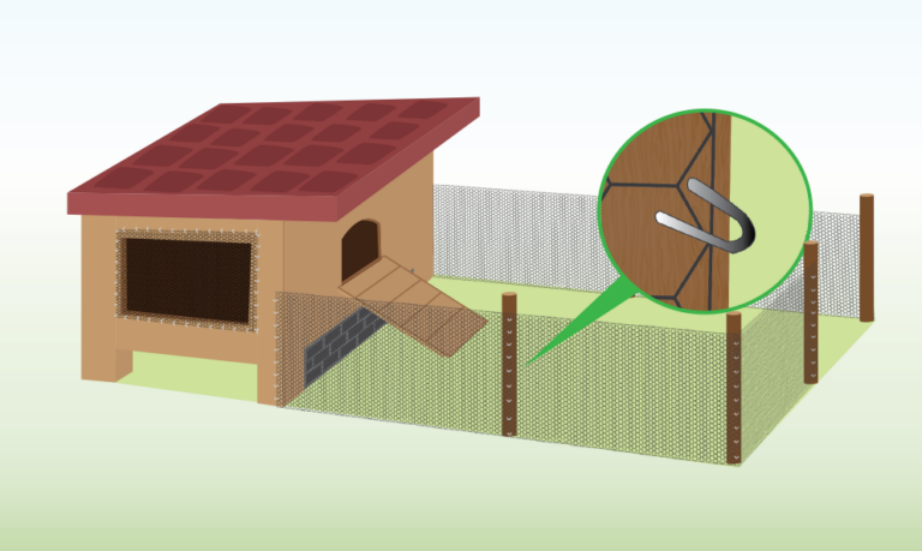
- Making a chicken run is quite a big project and it starts with planning the structure thoroughly.
- Plan the enclosure with a minimum size of 1 square metre per chicken.
- It will have to be attached to the coop so make sure to plan it around the chicken coop itself.

STEP 2) Position the Posts



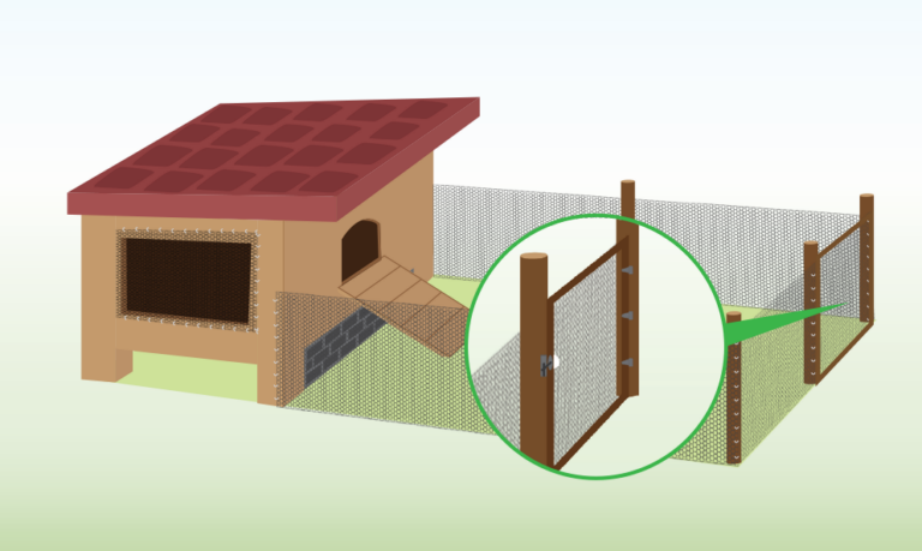
- Dig holes for your fence posts at even distances of about 2-2.5 metres at the perimeter of the area.
- Two posts should be closer together where the gate will be placed later.
- Hammer the posts at least 30 centimetres deep into the ground.

STEP 3) Attach the Chicken Wire



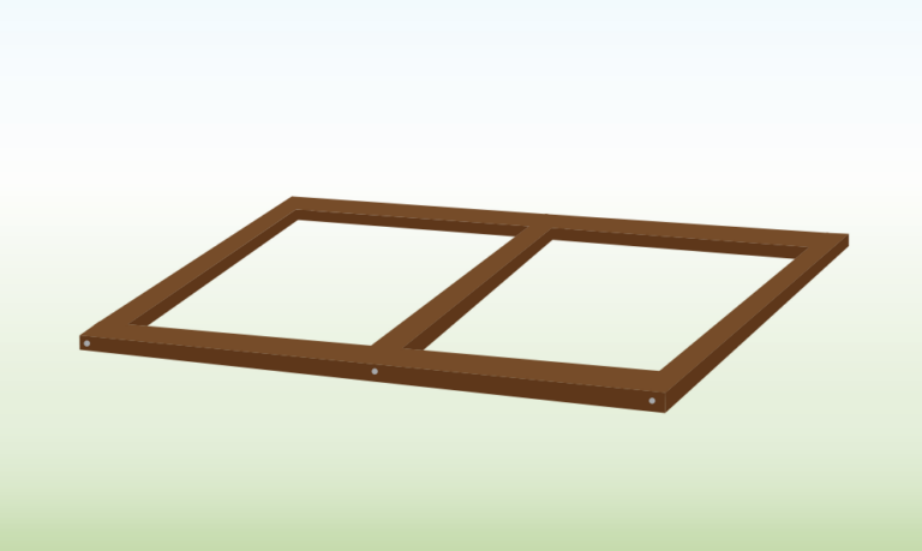
- Attach the chicken wire to the posts using staples about every 15 centimetres. If you need to keep predators out, you will need stronger options. 2mm-thick panels or fox-proof mesh will do the job.
- Ensure that the mesh is securely stapled to the posts, allowing a little room for movement upon impact or temperature changes.
- Attach the chicken wire to the sides of the coop as well.

STEP 4) Add the Gate



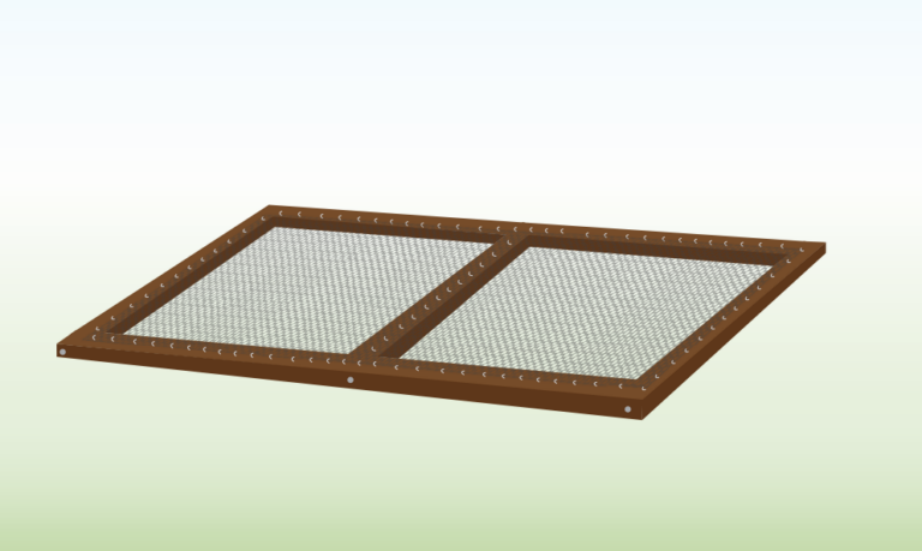
- You can build a sturdy frame and attach the wire to the frame using staples.
- Hang the gate with three gate hinges of your choice.
- Attach a latch on the outside of the gate. You should cut a hole beside the latch in order to reach it from the inside as well.

STEP 5) Build the Top Frame



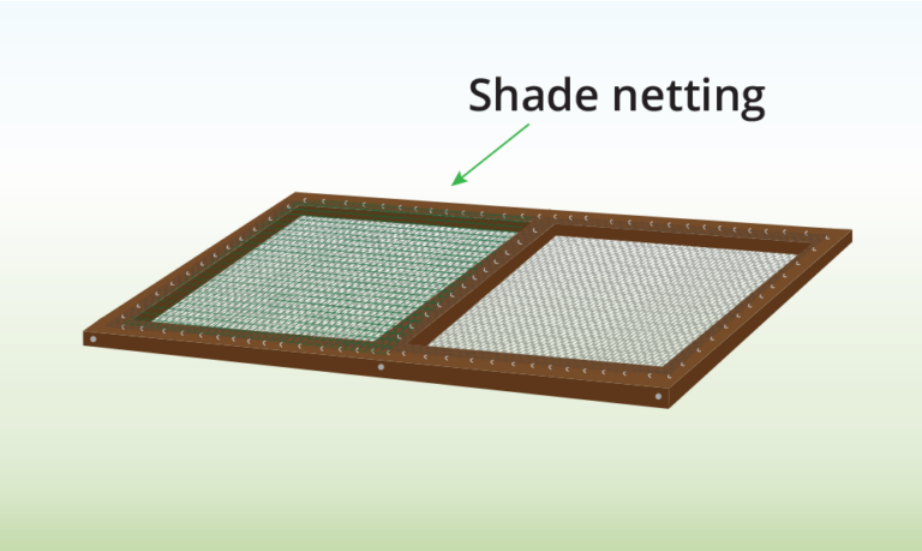
- Build a support frame for the roof.
- Use a saw to cut the wooden planks to size – you will need at least four but could be more depending on the size of your run.
- Join the planks together with nails and/or screws.

STEP 6) Attach the Wire to the Top



- Staple the wire netting to the top of the frame, at approx. 15cm distances.
- Make sure to staple along every wooden element, such as any support planks you may have in the middle.

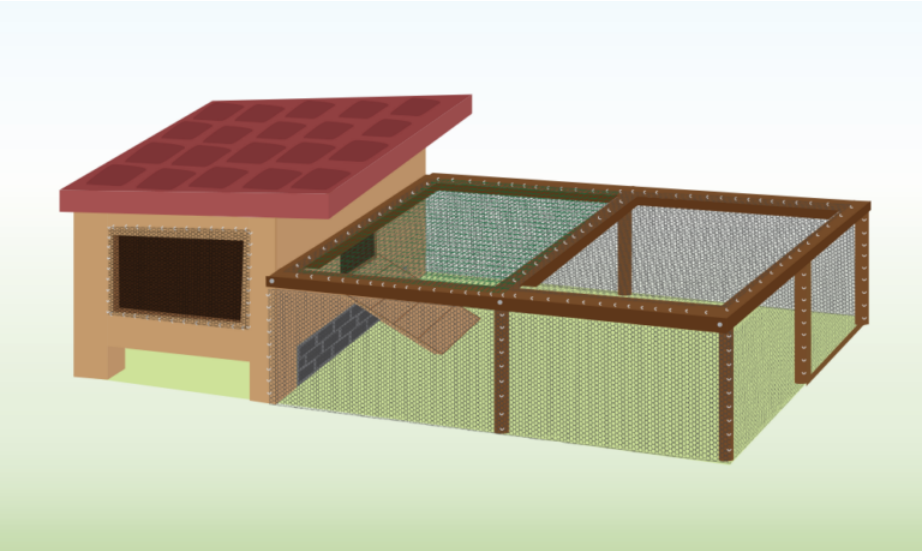
STEP 7) Cover the Top



- If there isn't any natural shade around the run, it's compulsory to add a layer of shade netting to a section at the top of the enclosure.

- Attach it to the mesh with cable ties or to the frame with staples.
- Make sure that you haven't covered the whole run.

STEP 8) Attach the Roof to the Run



- Fix the frame to the posts and the coop itself with nails and/or screws.
- That's it – your easy DIY chicken run is complete.
- You can now let your poultry roam around in it. □□

TIPS

- When building a chicken run, you can use gravel or concrete to set the posts in the soil.
- For additional security, dig a trench around the perimeter and sink the fencing down a few centimetres.
- If you can find a pre-made gate that matches your project, you can just attach it according to its design.

FURTHER READING

- How to Build a Chicken Coop – Step by step instructions on poultry coop installation.
- How to Make a Temporary Chicken Coop – Learn how to make a temporary poultry enclosure.
- Cutting Chicken Wire – A guide showing you how to cut wire netting.
- How to Unroll Chicken Wire – Learn how to unroll netting properly.