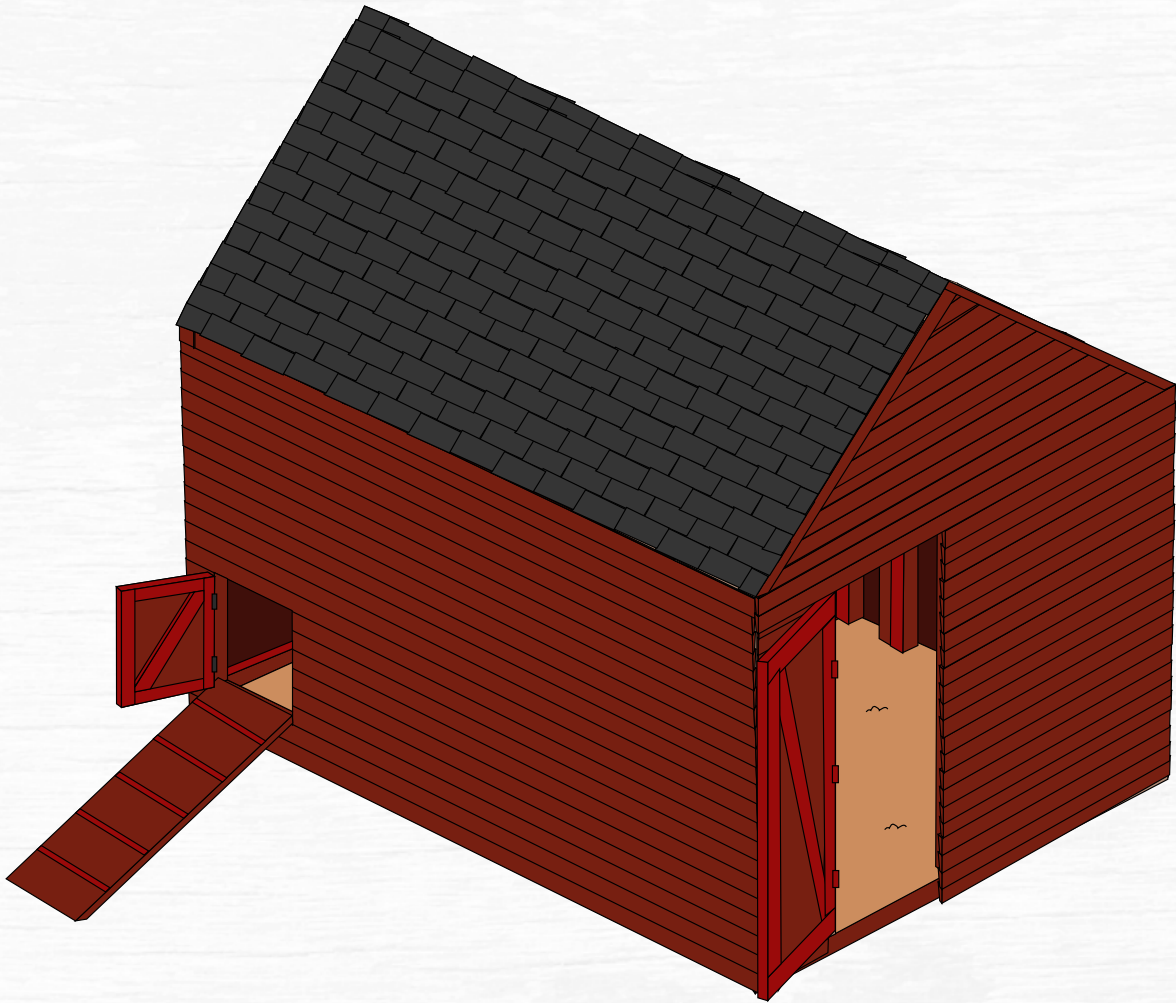


AN EASY STEP-BY-STEP

8x12 Walk-In Chicken Coop Plan



GET YOUR RUN UP-AND-RUNNING IN NO TIME AT ALL!



DISCOVER MORE AT: TRACTORSUPPLY.COM

A sturdy, weather-resistant chicken coop that's big enough to give your flock plenty of space.

Designed with your chickens' comfort and safety in mind, it's spacious enough for up to 24 hens and built to keep predators out, rain or shine. With a walk-in design, it makes cleaning, egg collection, and daily care easy. Follow our simple, step-by-step instructions to build a reliable, long-lasting home for your birds that will keep your chickens happy and safe.

MATERIALS LIST

LUMBER / WOOD:

- **2x6s (pressure-treated):** 9 pieces, 8' long & 2 pieces, 12' long
- **2x8s (pressure-treated):** 1 piece, 4' long
- **2x4s (pressure-treated):** 1 piece, 8' long
- **1x4s (pressure-treated):** 2 pieces, 8' long
- **Standard 2x8s:** 1 piece, 12' long
- **Standard 2x6s:** 14 pieces, 12' long & 5 pieces, 8' long
- **Standard 4x4s:** 1 piece, 4' long
- **Standard 2x4s:** 44 pieces, 8' long & 3 pieces, 4' long
- **1/2" exterior-grade plywood:** 20 sheets, 4' x 8'
- **3/4" exterior-grade plywood:** 4 sheets, 4' x 8'
- **1x4 Furring Strips / Ramp Treads:** 1 piece, 8' long

HARDWARE:

- **1" screws with 1/2" washers:** 5 lbs
- **1 1/4" screws:** 10 lbs
- **1 1/2" screws:** 8 lbs
- **2" screws:** 2lbs
- **3" screws:** 15 lbs
- **6" screws:** 2 lbs
- **1/2" galvanized nails:** 5 lbs
- **1 1/2" galvanized connector nails:** 2 lbs
- **Joist hangers:** 8

- **Rafter hangers:** 16
 - **Hurricane ties:** 16
 - **Heavy-duty door hinges:** 3 (walk-in door)
 - **Medium-duty hinges:** 2 (chicken door)
 - **Heavy-duty locking latches, padlock-compatible:** 4 (main door and chicken door)
 - **6" door pull** (Main door)
 - **24" x 24" pre-hung windows:** 2
 - **1/2" galvanized hardware cloth:** 50 square feet (for predator-proofing)
 - **Roofing materials (metal sheets or asphalt shingles):** check packaging for 200 sq. ft. coverage
 - **Exterior paint or stain (weatherproof):** 3 gallons (optional)
 - **Exterior-grade silicone caulk:** 2 tubes
-

TOOLS NEEDED

CUTTING & MEASURING:

- **Tape measure** (at least 25')
 - **Speed square/carpenter's square**
 - **Carpenter's pencil or chalk**
 - **Circular saw** (for cutting plywood and 2x4s)
 - **Wire snips/side cutters**
 - **Miter saw or hand saw** (for precise angle cuts, like ramp and rafters)
-

DRILLING & FASTENING:

- **Drill/driver** (corded or cordless)
 - **Drill bits** (for pilot holes)
 - **Screwdriver bits** for 1 ¼", 1 ½", 2", 3", and 6" screws
 - **Hammer** (for nails and hardware cloth)
-

ASSEMBLY & SUPPORT:

- **Clamps** (optional, for holding pieces while screwing)
- **Level** (to ensure walls and frame are plumb)
- **Sawhorses or workbench** (to support plywood while cutting)

ROOFING & EXTERIOR:

- **Utility knife** (for shingles or underlayment)
 - **Roofing nails or screws** (if using metal roofing)
 - **Caulk gun** (for exterior-grade silicone caulk)
 - **Paintbrushes/rollers** (for exterior paint or stain)
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SAFETY:

- **Safety glasses**
- **Hearing protection**
- **Work gloves**
- **Dust mask** (especially when cutting plywood)

STEP 1

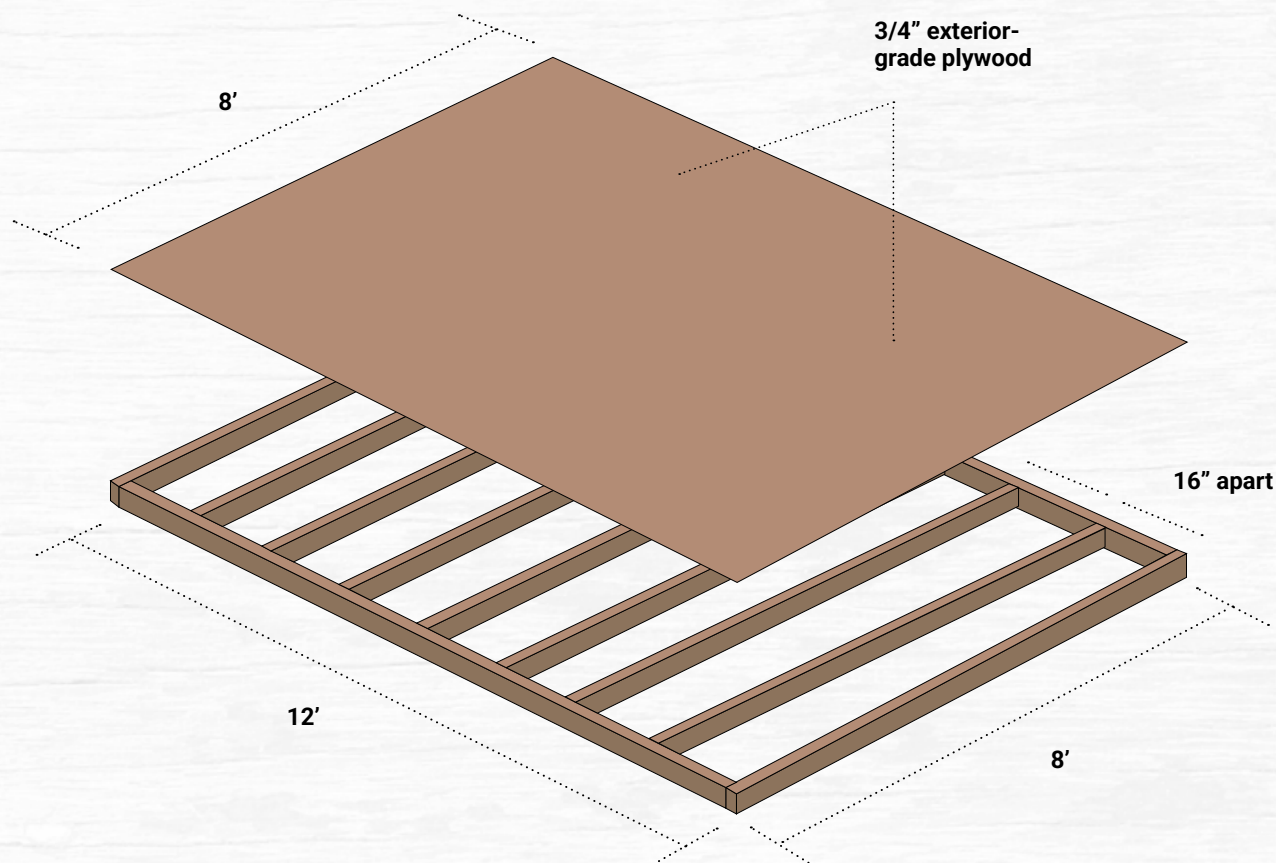
Preparing the Base

Prepare the Site:

- Clear the ground where the coop will sit. Ensure it's level to prevent issues with the structure later.

Frame the Base:

- Use **four pressure-treated 2x6s** to form the frame: **two 12' lengths** for the sides, and **two 8' lengths** for the front and back.
- Assemble the frame using **3" screws**, ensuring the angles are square.
- Add **seven pressure-treated 2x6s** at **8'** for the cross braces (**16" apart**), ensuring a center support.
- Use joist hangers where the **8' braces** meet the **12' side joists** for maximum floor load capacity.
- Install **3/4" exterior-grade plywood sheets** over the floor frame to fully cover the **8 ft x 12 ft platform**. Stagger seams where possible. Fasten with **1 1/4" screws**, every **8"** along the edges and every **12"** in the field.



STEP 2

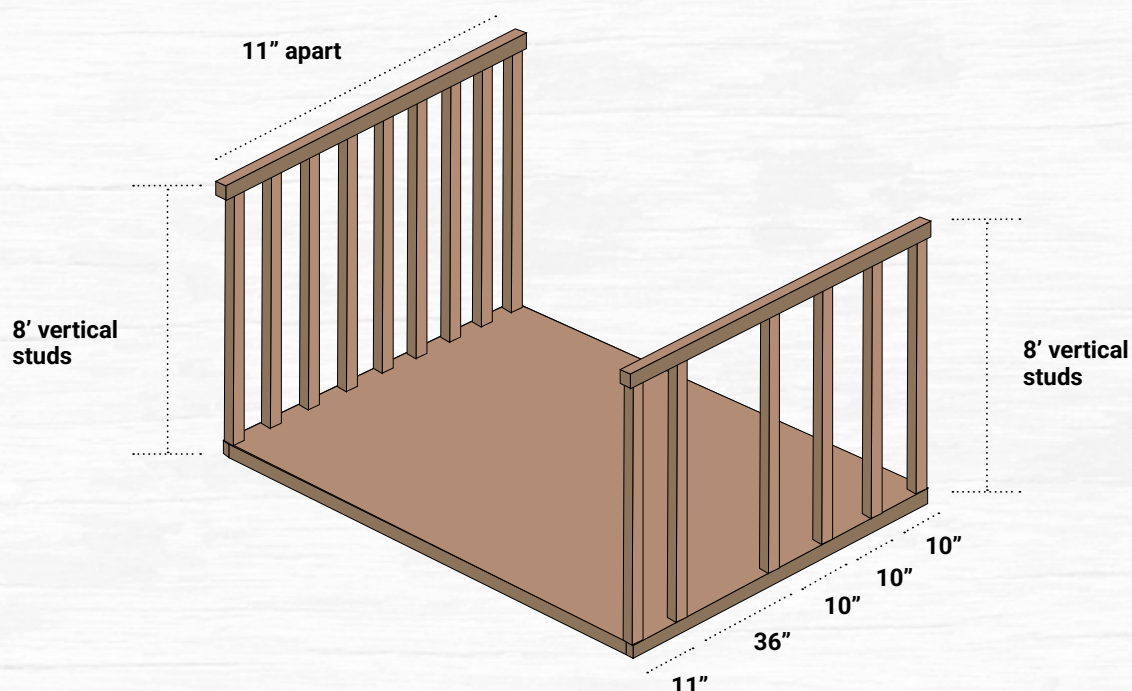
Framing the Walls

Front Wall Frame:

- Build the **8' front wall** flat on the floor.
- Use **two standard 2x6s** for the **8' 4"** horizontal top and bottom frames.
- Use **standard 2x4s** for the two **8'** side vertical frames.
- Use **four standard 2x4s** for **8' vertical studs**.
- Position the first stud **11"** from the side and space the next stud **36" apart** to allow for the door width. Continue spacing the remaining studs at approximately **10" apart**, ensuring one stud is placed at the center of the overall width.
- Assemble with **3" screws**.
- Install the wall frame to the floor, using **6" screws**.

Back Wall Frame:

- Build the **8' back wall** flat on the floor deck.
- Use **two standard 2x6s** for the **8' 4"** horizontal top and bottom frames.
- Use **standard 2x4s** for the two **8'** side vertical frames.
- Use **seven standard 2x4s** for **8' vertical studs** and space them approximately **11" apart**, ensuring one stud is placed at the center of the overall width.
- Assemble with **3" screws**.
- Install the wall frame to the floor, using **6" screws**.



STEP 3

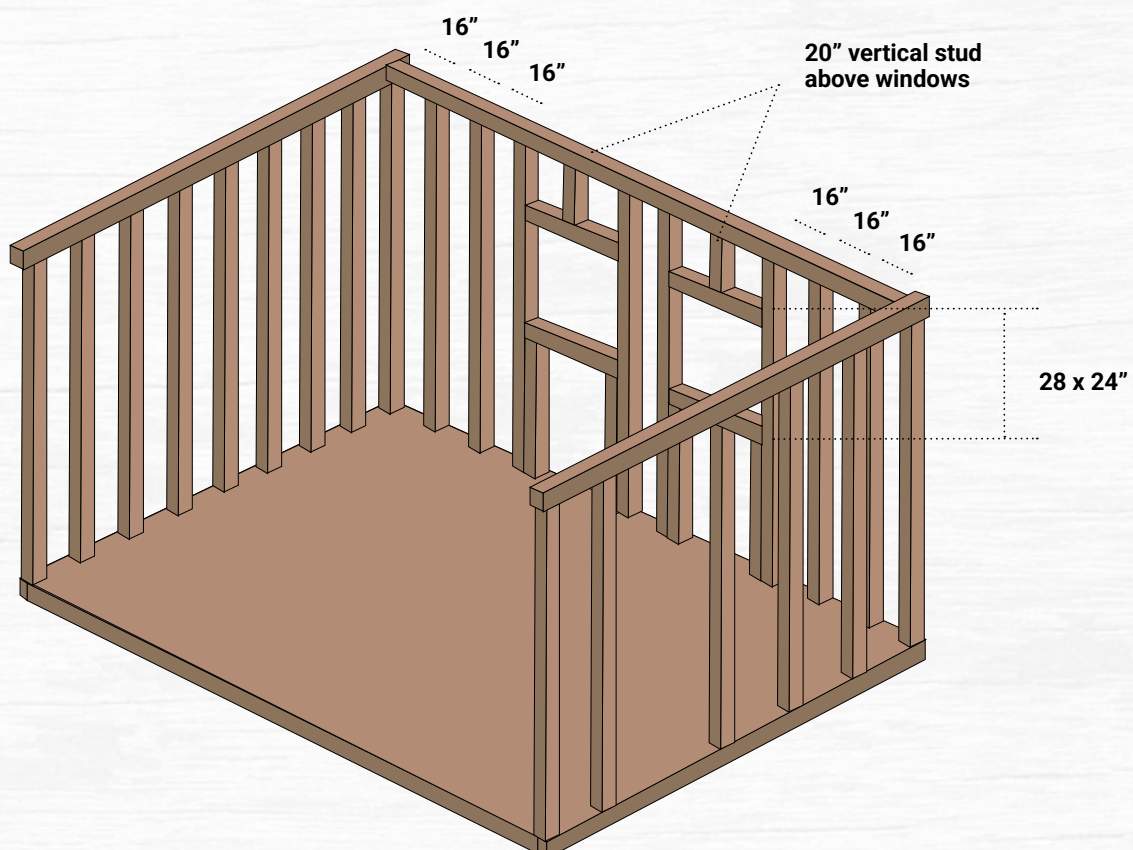
Framing the Right Side Wall

Right Side Wall:

- Build the **12' right side wall** flat on the floor deck.
- Use **standard 2x6s** for the **11'** horizontal top and bottom frames.
- Use **standard 2x4s** for the two **8'** side vertical frames.
- Use **five standard 2x4s** for **8' vertical studs** and space them approximately **16" apart**, leaving two openings of approximately **28"** for the windows.
- Assemble with **3" screws**.

Frame the Windows:

- Use **four standard 2x4s** at **5'** as vertical studs of the two windows.
- Use **two standard 2x4s** at **28"** for the horizontal top framing of each window.
- Use **two standard 2x4s** at **24"** for the horizontal bottom framing of each window.
- Add **two standard 2x4s** at **20"** as a vertical stud above each window at its center.
- Assemble with **3" screws**.
- Install the wall frame to the floor, using **6" screws**.



STEP 4

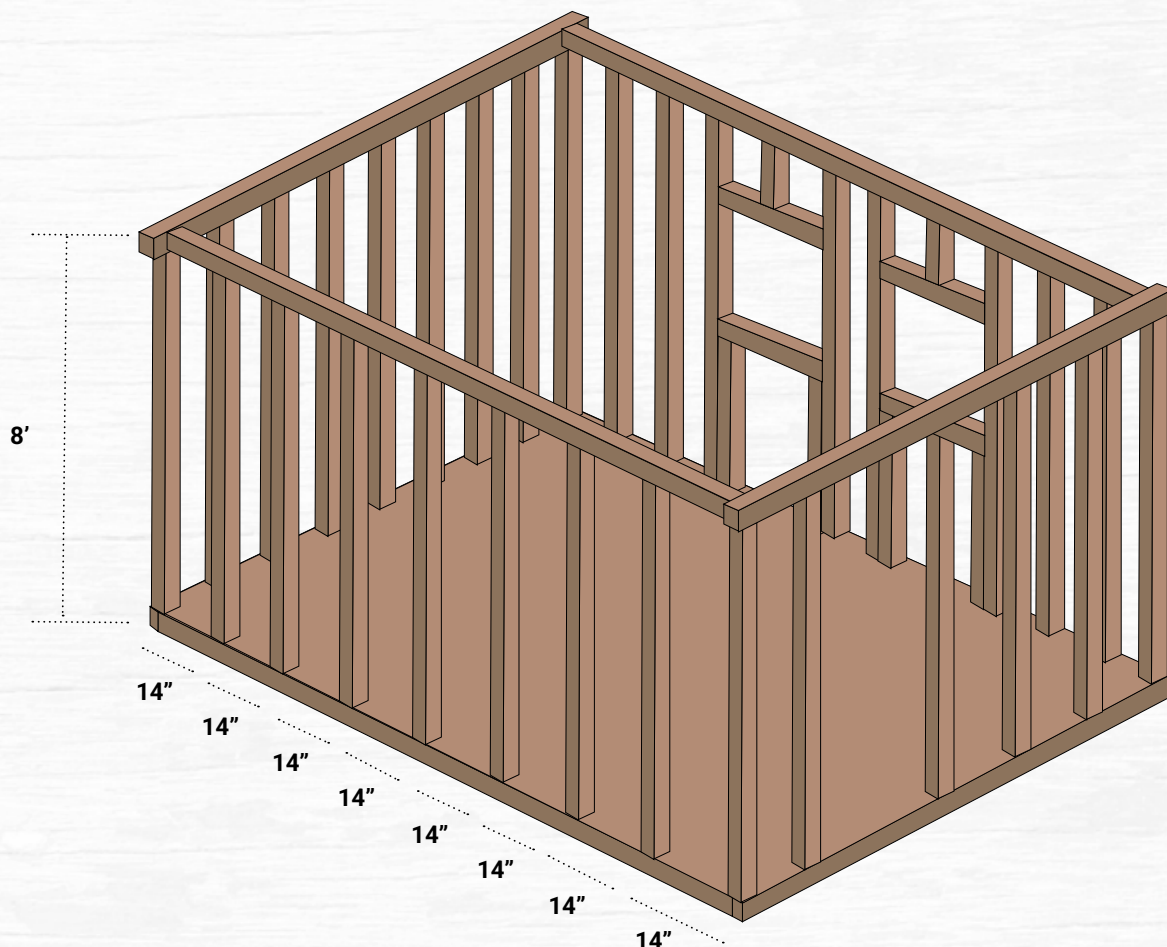
Framing the Left Side Wall

Left Side Wall:

- Build the **12' left side wall** flat on the floor deck.
- Use **standard 2x6s** for the **11' horizontal top and bottom frames**.
- Use **standard 2x4s** for the **two 8' side vertical frames**.
- Use **seven standard 2x4s** for **8' vertical studs** and space them approximately **14" apart**.
- Use **two standard 2x4s** for the **14" horizontal top and bottom frames** of the chicken door. Install them **12" apart** between two vertical studs, at the bottom of the wall frame.
- Assemble with **3" screws**.
- Install the wall frame to the floor, using **6" screws**.

Brace the Walls:

- Fasten all top and bottom corners together with **3" screws**, checking plumb with a level.



STEP 5

Roof Framing & Sheathing

Install the Ridge Beam:

- Use **two standard 4x4s** at **24"** as vertical supports, center the supports on top of the top horizontal wall framing on the front and back walls.
- Secure a **standard 2x8** at **12'** on the support beams, across the center of the coop.

Attach Roof Rafters:

- Use **16 standard 2x6s** at **5' 6"** for the rafters.
- Notch each rafter for a solid connection to the ridge beam and top wall frames.

Assemble the Roof:

- Nail **hurricane ties** to the side wall top frames at **14" intervals**.
- Set the rafters into the **hurricane ties** and against the ridge beam. Use rafter hangers at the ridge for maximum strength.
- Secure the rafters to the metal plates with **1 ½" galvanized connector nails**.

Install Roof Sheathing:

- Secure **1/2" exterior-grade plywood boards** to the rafters. Ensure plywood extends past the walls for side overhangs.
- Use **1 ¼" screws** to attach the plywood to the rafters.

Install Roofing:

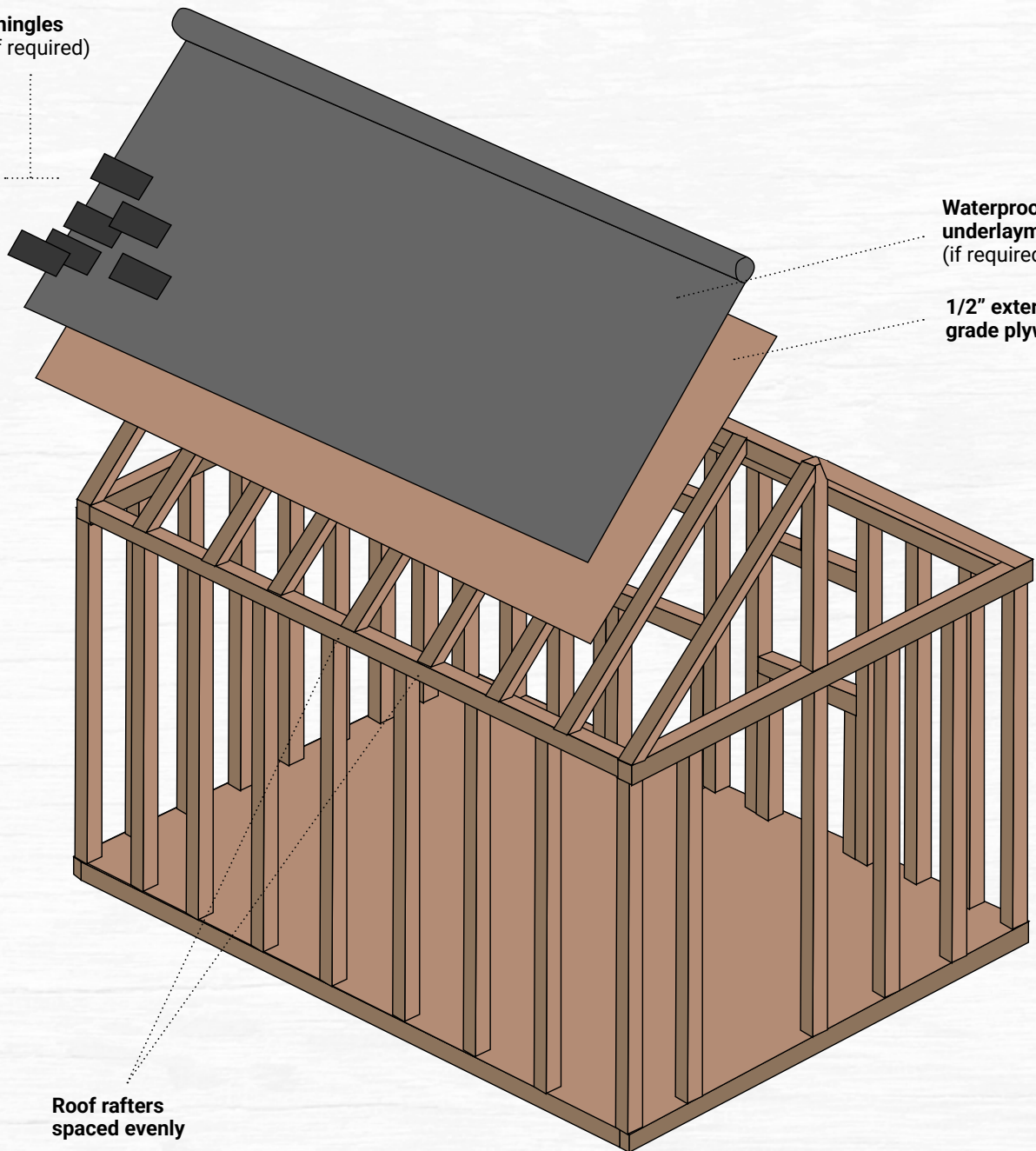
- If using shingles: Install a waterproof underlayment first, then apply the shingles according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- If using metal roofing, secure the metal sheets with appropriate fasteners.
- Ensure all edges are sealed and weatherproofed to prevent leaks.

Shingles
(if required)

**Waterproof
underlayment**
(if required)

**1/2" exterior-
grade plywood**

**Roof rafters
spaced evenly**



STEP 6

Installing Doors

Main Door:

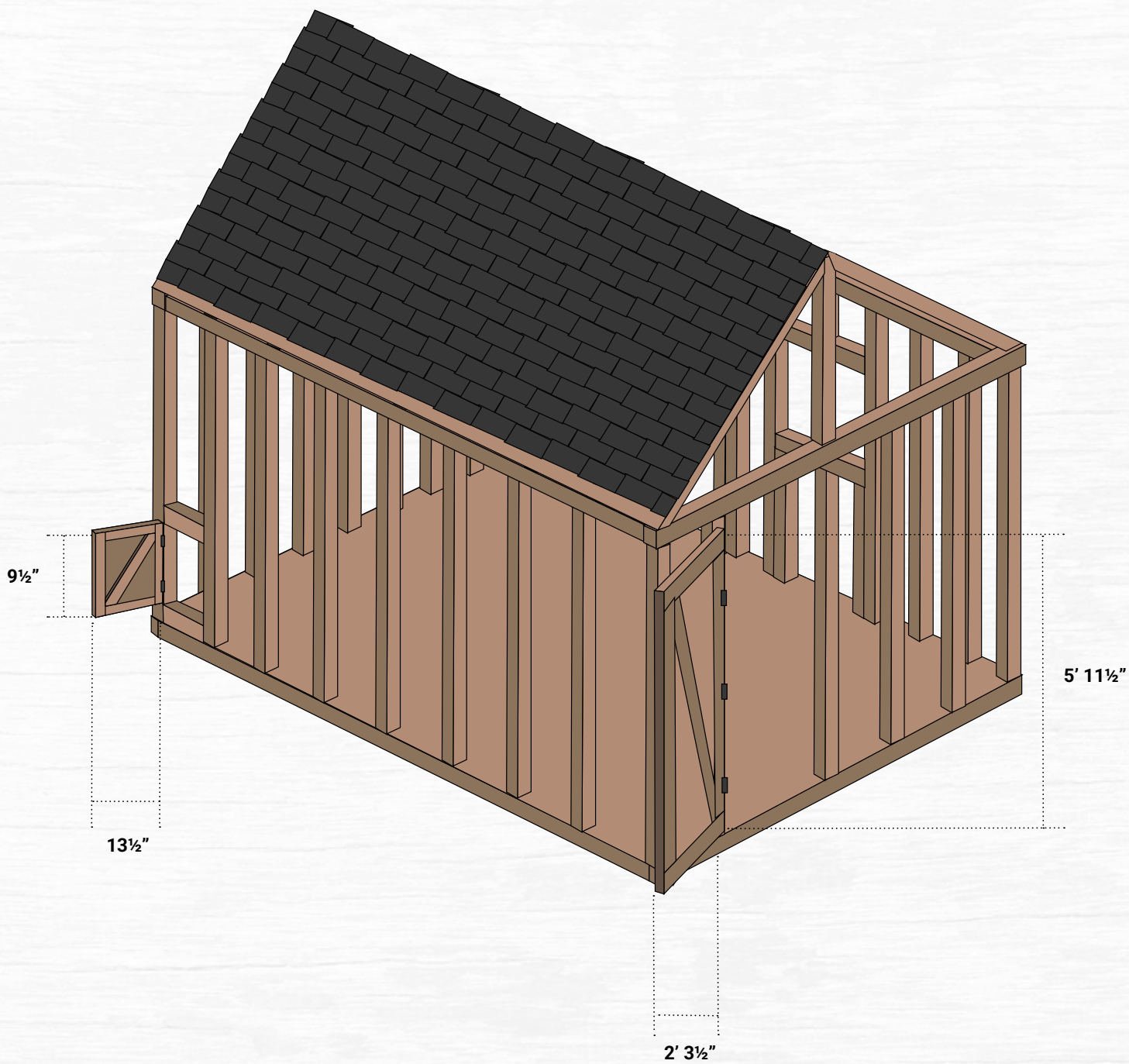
- Cut a piece of **1/2" exterior-grade plywood** to be **2' 11 1/2" x 5' 11 1/2"** (this **1/4" gap** on all sides prevents the door from sticking when the wood swells in the rain).
- Lay your plywood door flat. Use **two standard 2x4s** to cut two vertical framing to **5' 11 1/2"**.
- Use **three standard 2x4s** at **2' 3 1/2"** for top and bottom horizontal framing, and a center brace.
- Measure and cut **two standard 2x4s** to fit diagonally inside each rectangle. It must run from the top corner (hinge side) down to the bottom corner (latch side).
- Attach the frame pieces with **3" screws**, ensuring that all angles are square using a speed square.
- Secure the frame to the **1/2" exterior-grade plywood** using **1 1/2" screws**.

Attach Hinges & Latch:

- Attach **3 heavy-duty hinges** to the door and the coop frame.
- Install a **secure locking latch** to prevent predators from opening the door.
- Finish the door installation by attaching a **6" door pull**.
- Ensure the door swings outward for safety.
- Install a **standard 2x4 at 24"** as a vertical stud above door frame at its center.

Chicken Door:

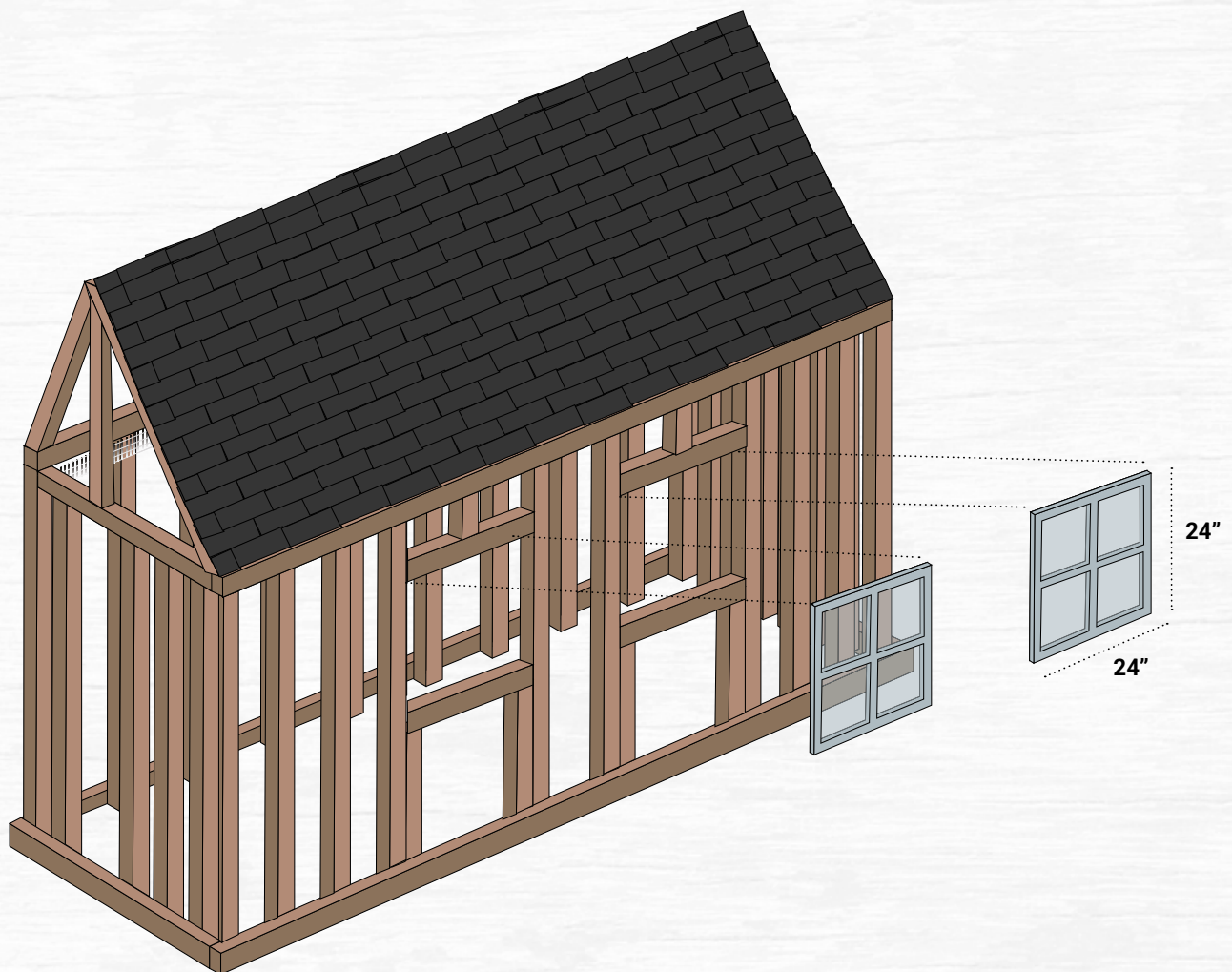
- Cut **3/4" exterior-grade plywood** to **13 1/2" x 11 1/2"**.
- Use **two standard 2x4s** at **9 1/2"** for vertical side framing.
- Use **two standard 2x4s** at **13 1/2"** for top and bottom horizontal framing.
- Measure and cut a **standard 2x4** to fit diagonally inside the rectangle, for extra stability.
- Attach the frame pieces with **3" screws**, ensuring that all angles are square using a speed square.
- Secure the frame to the **3/4" exterior-grade plywood** using **1 1/2" screws**.
- Attach **2 hinges** to the top or side of the door and the coop frame.
- Install a predator-proof locking latch.



STEP 7

Installing Windows

- Lift your **24" x 24" pre-hung windows** into the framed openings on the right side wall to ensure a proper fit.
- Apply a thick bead of **exterior-grade silicone caulk** around the back of the window flange before inserting it into the opening.
- Place the window in the opening. Use a level to ensure it is perfectly straight. Fasten the window to the framing using **1 ½" screws** through the pre-drilled holes in the flange.
- Use **pressure-treated 1x4s** to frame the outside of the windows.
- On the inside of the coop, fasten **1/2" hardware cloth** over the window openings using **1" screws with 1/2" washers**.



STEP 8

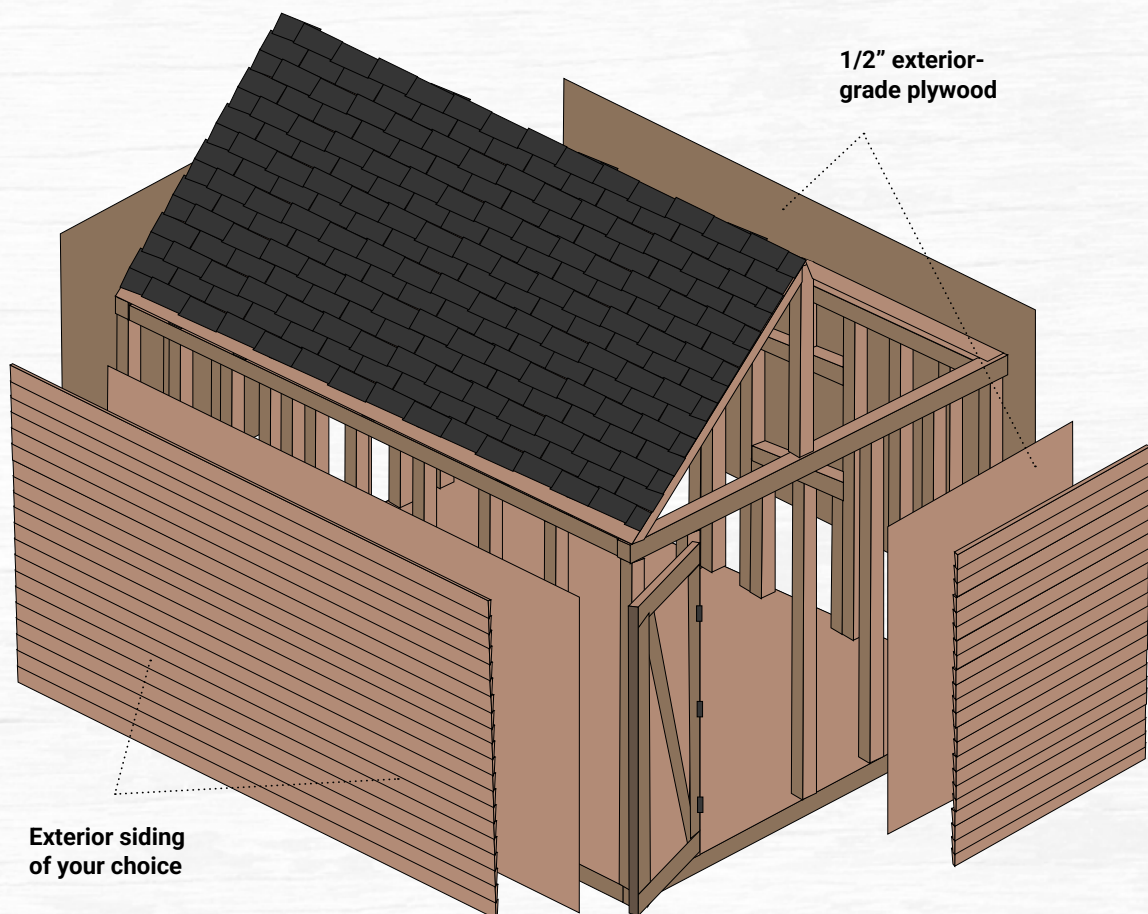
Exterior Cladding & Weatherproofing

Install Wall Sheathing:

- Use **1/2" exterior-grade plywood** to cover all exterior walls.
- Cut panels to fit around doors and windows precisely.
- Fasten using **1 1/2" screws** every **8–12"**.
- In the triangle areas above the 8' front and back walls, cut a vent **24" wide**. Cover these two openings with **1/2" hardware cloth** using **1" screws with 1/2" washers**.

Install Exterior Siding:

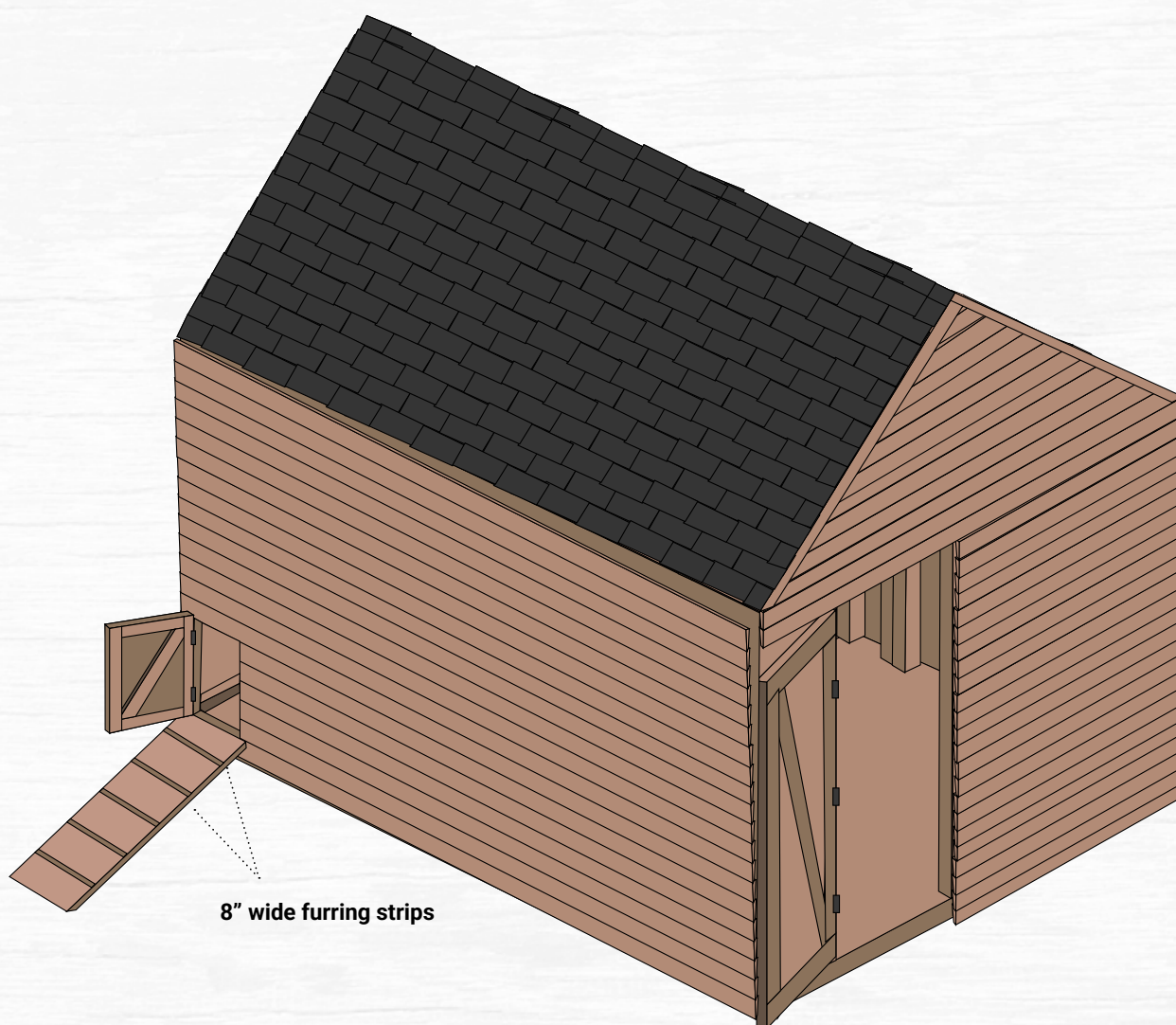
- Attach your chosen siding (e.g., shiplap, T1-11, or weatherboard).
- Start from the bottom and work upward, overlapping each board.
- Secure with **1/2" galvanized nails**.



STEP 9

Adding Ramp

- Use a **pressure-treated 2x8** for a ramp with a 30-degree angle to the ground. Cut one end at an angle to make the ramp sit flush against the coop.
- Cut **1x8 furring strips** to **8" wide** pieces, and screw onto the flat side of the **2x8 base** every **4" to 6"**.
- Attach the ramp to the exterior coop wall, just below the chicken door, using **2" screws**.



STEP 10

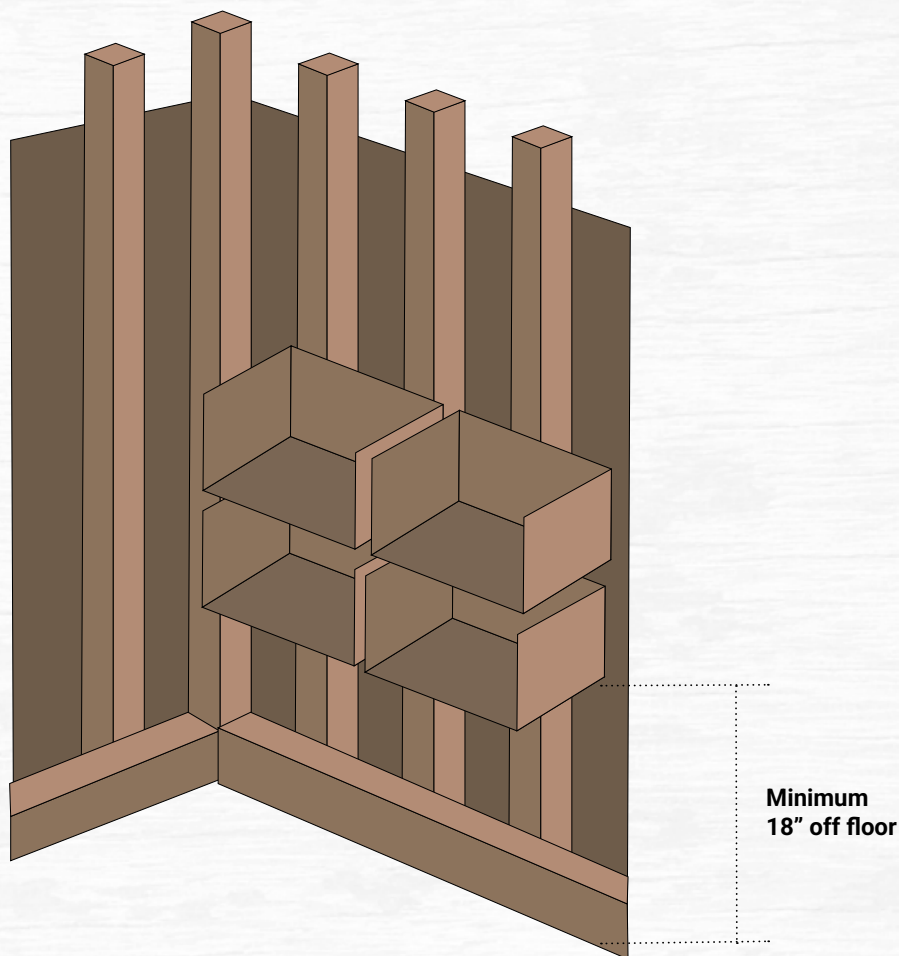
Nesting Boxes & Roosting Bar

Nesting Boxes:

- Cut nesting boxes from **1/2" exterior-grade plywood**. Two sides at **12" x 12"**, floor at **14" x 12"**, and the front wall at **14" x 12"**.
- One box per three chickens is ideal, so adjust the number based on your flock size.
- Install the boxes inside the coop on one **12'** side wall, at least **18"** off the coop floor.

Roosting Bar:

- Install **three standard 2x4** at **8'** horizontally inside the coop, **8" higher** than the nesting boxes and at least **12" away** from the nearest wall.
- Position the **standard 2x4** with the wide side facing up so the chickens can rest on a flat surface.



STEP 11

Finishing Touches

Painting:

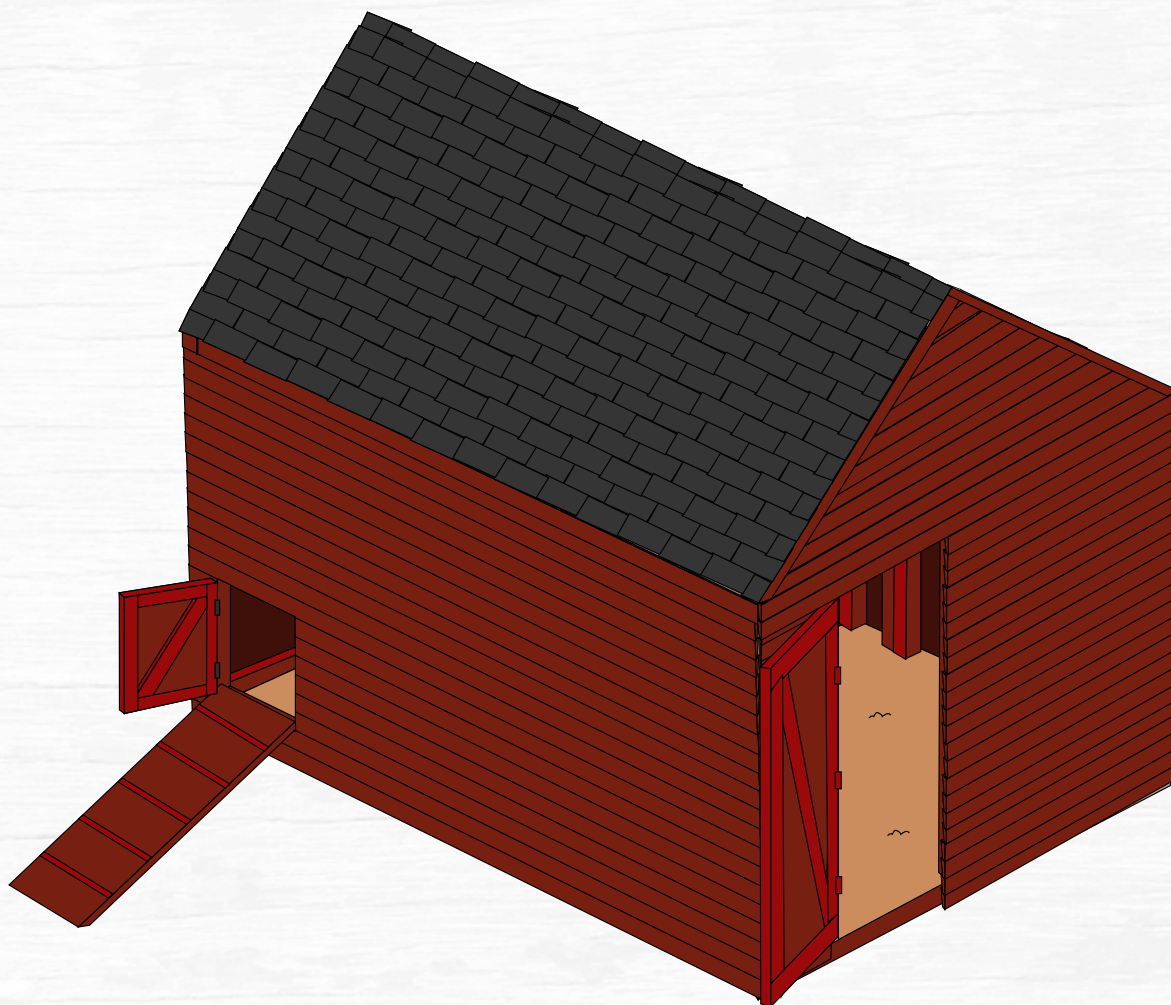
- Paint or stain the exterior of the coop frame with **weatherproof exterior paint**.
- Ensure all exposed wood and roof edges are sealed.

Predator-Proofing:

- Ensure all openings are securely covered with **1/2" hardware cloth**.

Cleaning:

- Consider adding a **deep litter system (4-6" of pine shavings)** to make cleaning easier.





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MEET THE EXPERT, CODY DELUISIO:

Cody Deluisio is a poultry expert with over 28 years of experience raising chickens, from small backyard flocks to groups of up to 500 birds. He is a member of the American Bantam Association and has hands-on experience with DIY coops, pre-built kits, barns, sheds, and chicken tractors. He currently raises Silkies and ISA Browns, sharing insights from his farm and breeding work through his content channels.