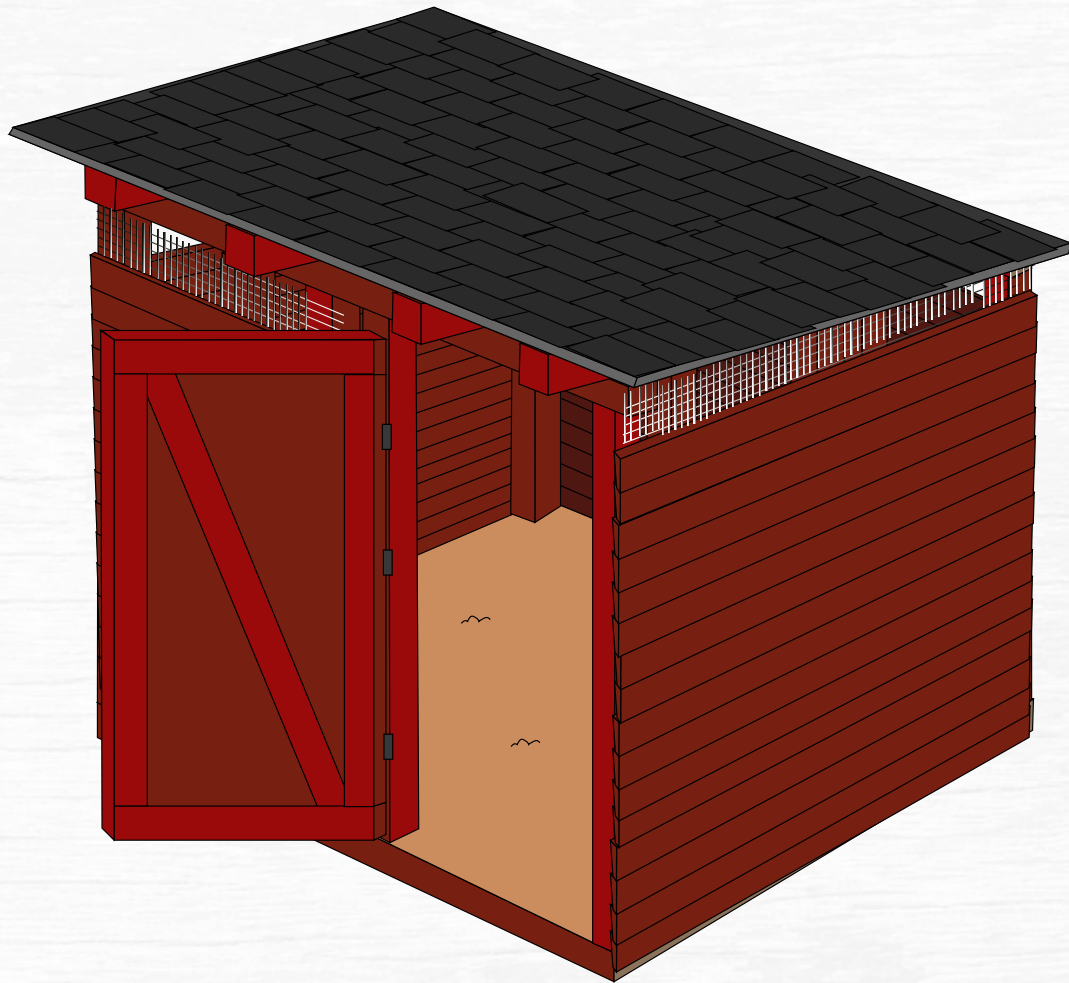


AN EASY STEP-BY-STEP

4x4 Small Chicken Coop Plan



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



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A good fit for backyard chicken keepers who want a smaller coop that still covers the basics.

This 4 ft × 4 ft chicken coop setup is ideal for 2 to 4 hens. The design uses an enclosed area to help keep the interior drier and cleaner, along with a sloped roof to shed rain and snow. There is room for roosting, nesting, ventilation, and easy access for cleaning, all within a footprint that is manageable for beginners and practical for smaller spaces.

MATERIALS LIST

LUMBER / WOOD:

- **2x4s (pressure-treated):** 5 pieces, 4' long
- **Standard 2x4s:** 17 pieces, 8' long
- **Standard 2x4s:** 13 pieces, 4' long
- **1/2" exterior-grade plywood:** 1 sheets, 4' × 8'
- **3/4" exterior-grade plywood:** 1 sheet, 4' × 8'
- **Siding material (e.g., shiplap, T1-11, or weatherboard):** enough for 110 sq. ft. coverage

HARDWARE:

- **1" screws with 1/2" washers:** 1 lbs
- **1 1/4" screws:** 1 lbs
- **1 1/2" screws:** 3 lbs
- **3" screws:** 5 lbs
- **Heavy-duty door hinges:** 3
- **Medium-duty hinges:** 2 (nesting box lid)
- **Heavy-duty locking latches, padlock-compatible:** 2 (main door and nesting box)
- **6" door pull**
- **1/2" galvanized hardware cloth:** 15 square feet (for predator-proofing)
- **Roofing materials (metal sheets or asphalt shingles):** check packaging for 32 sq. ft. coverage
- **Drip edge:** 20 linear ft (to prevent water from curling under the roof plywood)
- **Exterior paint or stain (weatherproof):** 3 gallons (optional)
- **Exterior-grade silicone caulk:** 2 tubes

TOOLS NEEDED

CUTTING & MEASURING:

- **Tape measure** (at least 16')
 - **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)
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DRILLING & FASTENING:

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

SAFETY:

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

Please note: These illustrations are for educational purposes only.
Consult a qualified professional for detailed plans and construction guidance.

STEP 1

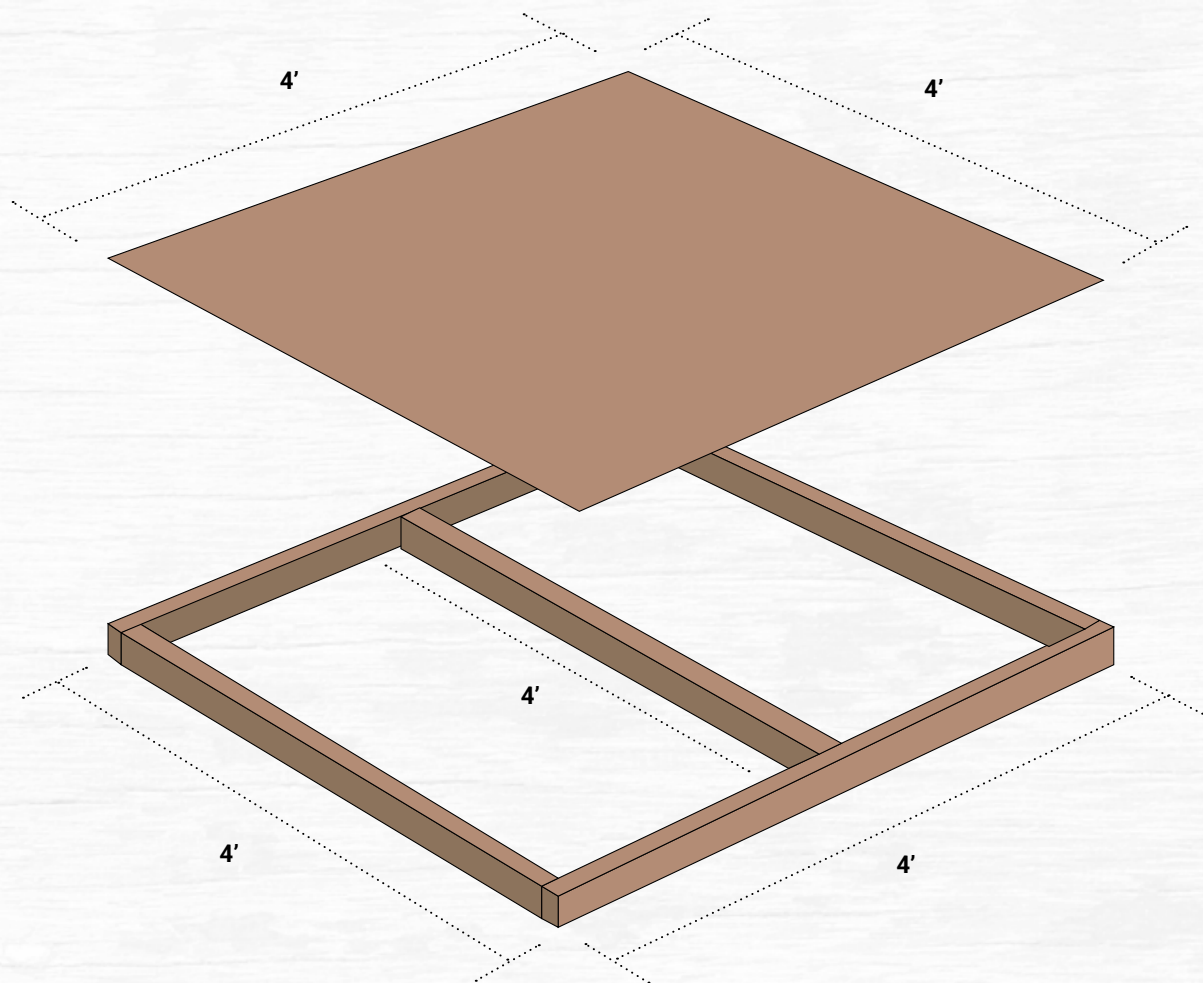
Preparing the Base

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 2x4s at 4'** to form the base frame.
- Assemble the frame using **3" screws**, ensuring the angles are square.
- Add a **pressure-treated 2x4 at 4'** for the center cross brace for extra support.
- Install **3/4" exterior-grade plywood sheets** over the floor frame to fully cover the 4 ft x 4 ft space. Stagger seams where possible. Fasten with **1 1/4" screws**.



STEP 2

Framing the Walls

Front Wall Frame (Tall Side):

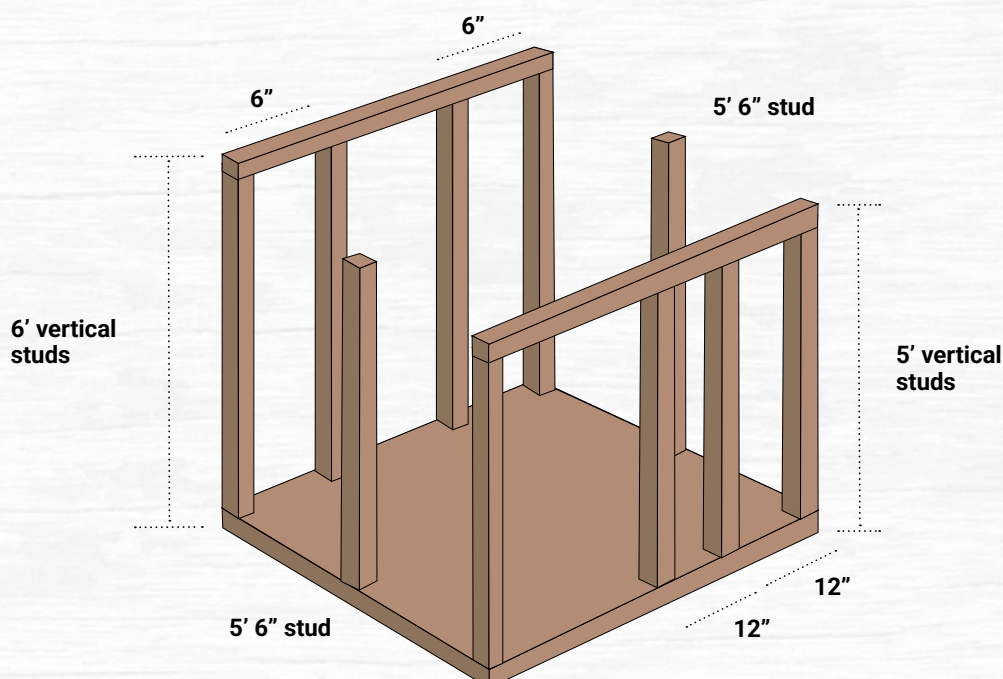
- Use a **standard 2x4** at **4'** for the top and bottom horizontal framing, ensuring it is level.
- Use **four standard 2x4s** for **6' vertical studs**. Space them approximately **6"** from each side.
- Use **two standard 2x4s** at **33"** for the horizontal top and bottom door framing, ensuring an opening of **2' 9" x 5'**.
- Assemble with **3" screws**.

Back Wall Frame (Short Side):

- Use a **standard 2x4** at **4'** for the top and bottom horizontal framing, ensuring it is level.
- Use **four standard 2x4s** as **5' vertical studs** and space them **12" apart**.
- Assemble with **3" screws**.

Side Walls:

- Use a **standard 2x4** at **4'** for the bottom horizontal framing.
- To create the slope, the studs will vary: Use the **6' corner studs** from the front wall and the **5' corner studs** from the back wall as your ends.
- For each side wall, cut an additional stud from **standard 2x4s** to **5' 6"**.
- Space the studs in the center of the **4'** wall span.
- Assemble with **3" screws**.



STEP 3

Roof Framing & Sheathing

Cut Roof Rafters:

- Use **four standard 2x4s** cut to **6'** for the roof rafters. This allows for an overhang on both the front and back to keep the coop dry.
- Notch the ends of each rafter for a solid connection to the top frame.

Assemble the Roof:

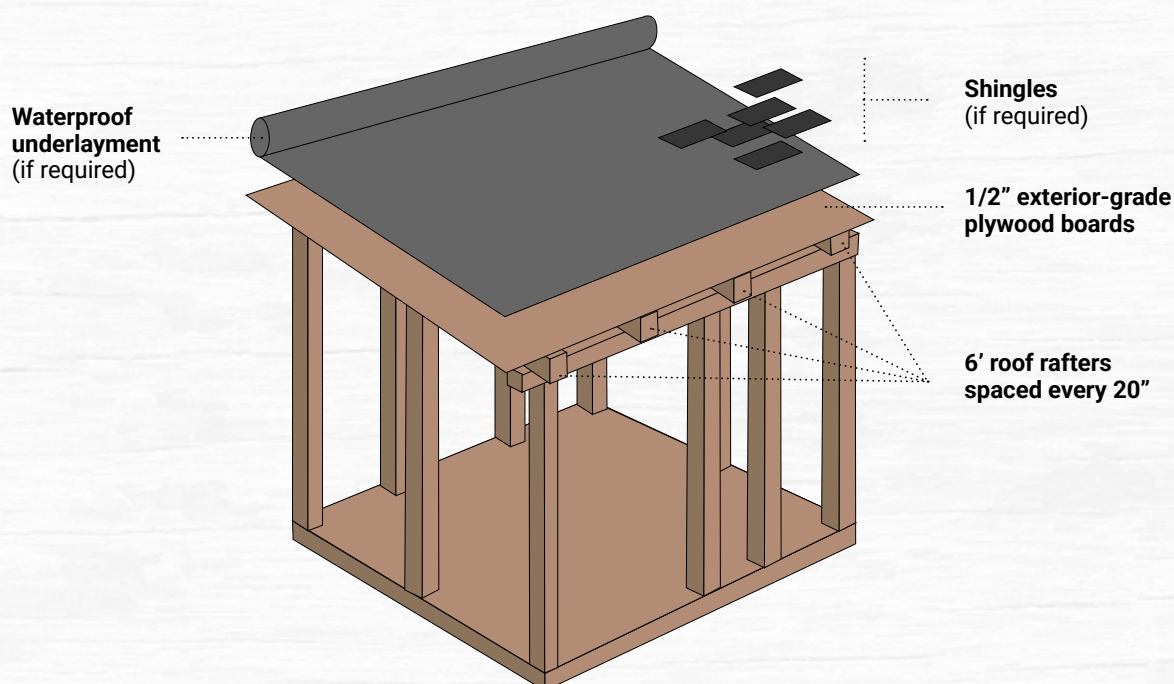
- Attach the rafters to the top frame using **3" screws**, ensuring the rafters are evenly spaced at around every **20"** for stability.

Install Roof Sheathing:

- Secure **1/2" exterior-grade plywood boards** to the rafters. Ensure plywood extends past the walls for side overhangs.
- Use **1 1/4" 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.



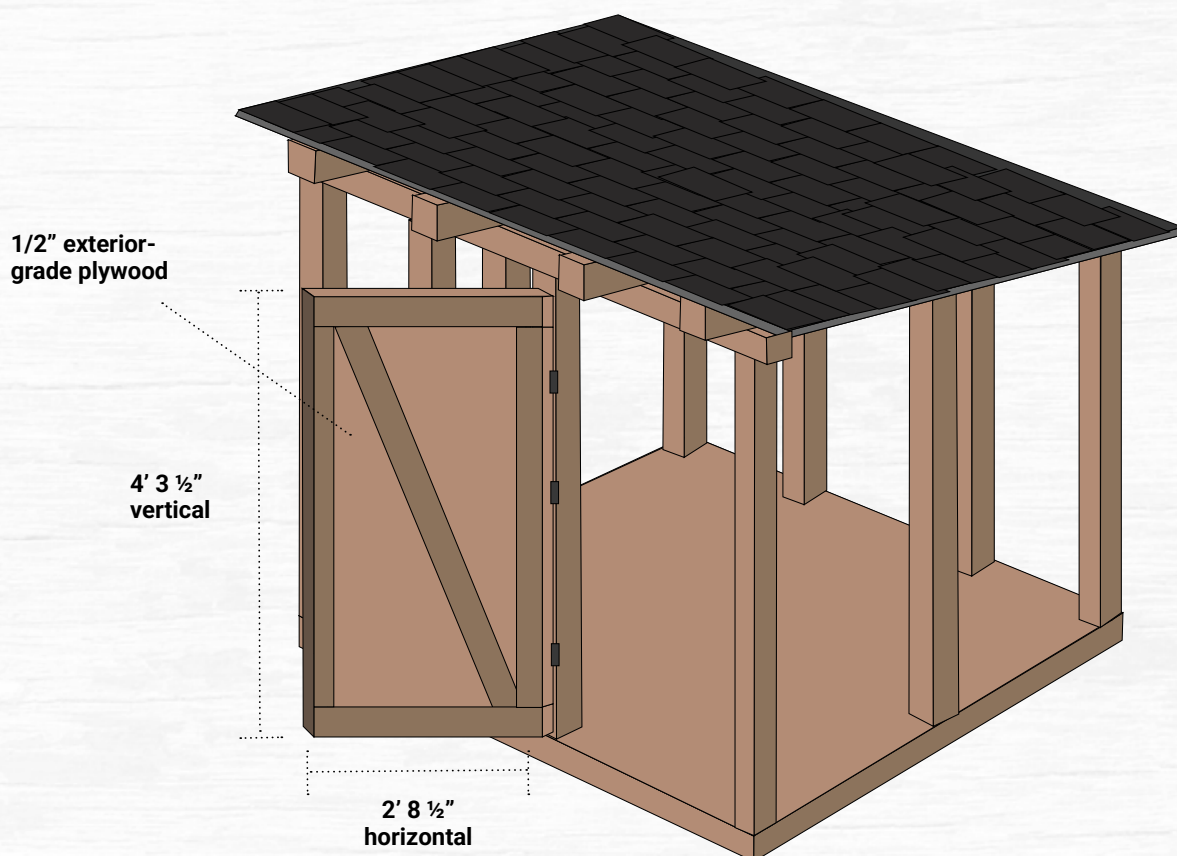
STEP 4

Installing Door

- Use **two standard 2x4s** for the **5' vertical frames** of the door.
- Cut a piece of **1/2" exterior-grade plywood** to be **2' 8 1/2" x 4' 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 **4' 3 1/2"**.
- Use **two standard 2x4s** at **2' 8 1/2"** for top and bottom horizontal framing.
- Measure and cut a **standard 2x4** to fit diagonally inside the 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.



STEP 5

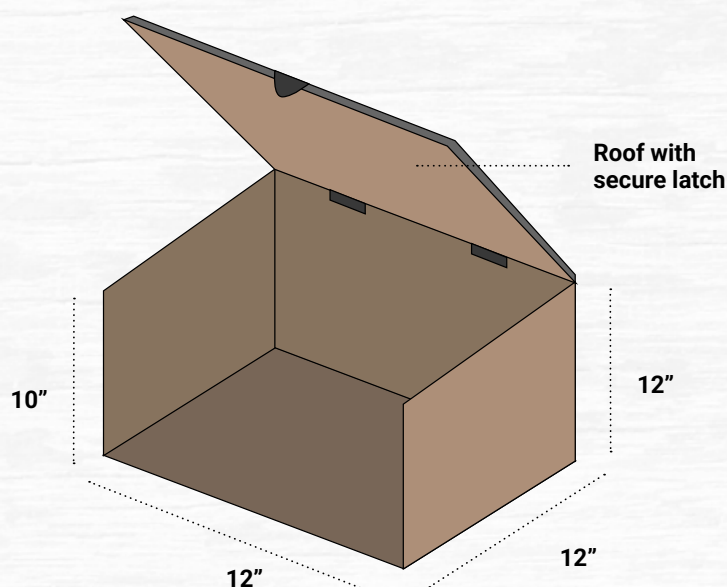
Nesting Boxes & Roosting Bar

Nesting Box:

- Install **two standard 2x4s** at **12"** to the exterior back wall to frame the horizontal top and bottom of the **12" x 12" hole**.
- Cut a box from **1/2" exterior-grade plywood**. Two sides at **12" x 12"**, floor at **12" x 12"**, and the front wall at **12" x 10"**.
- Cut the top of the **12" x 12" sides** with a slope from the back edge at **12"** tall to the front edge at **10"** (this is for a sloped roof).
- There should be no back wall on the nesting box; leave this open and mount the nesting box outside the enclosed coop box, aligning it with the framed **12" x 12" opening**.
- The nesting box roof should have a roughly **9-degree slope**. Cut **1/2" exterior-grade plywood** to be **12" x 13"**.
- Add roofing scraps to the roof for extra protection from the elements.
- Attach two hinges evenly spaced along the back edge and secure the roof.
- Install a secure latch to the roof lid so it cannot be opened by raccoons, foxes, or other predators.
- Repeat these steps on side walls for extra nesting boxes if needed.

Roosting Bar:

- Install a **standard 2x4** at **4'** horizontally inside the coop, **8"** higher than the nesting box and at least **12"** away from the nearest wall.
- Position the **standard 2x4** with the wide side facing up so the chickens can sleep on a flat surface.

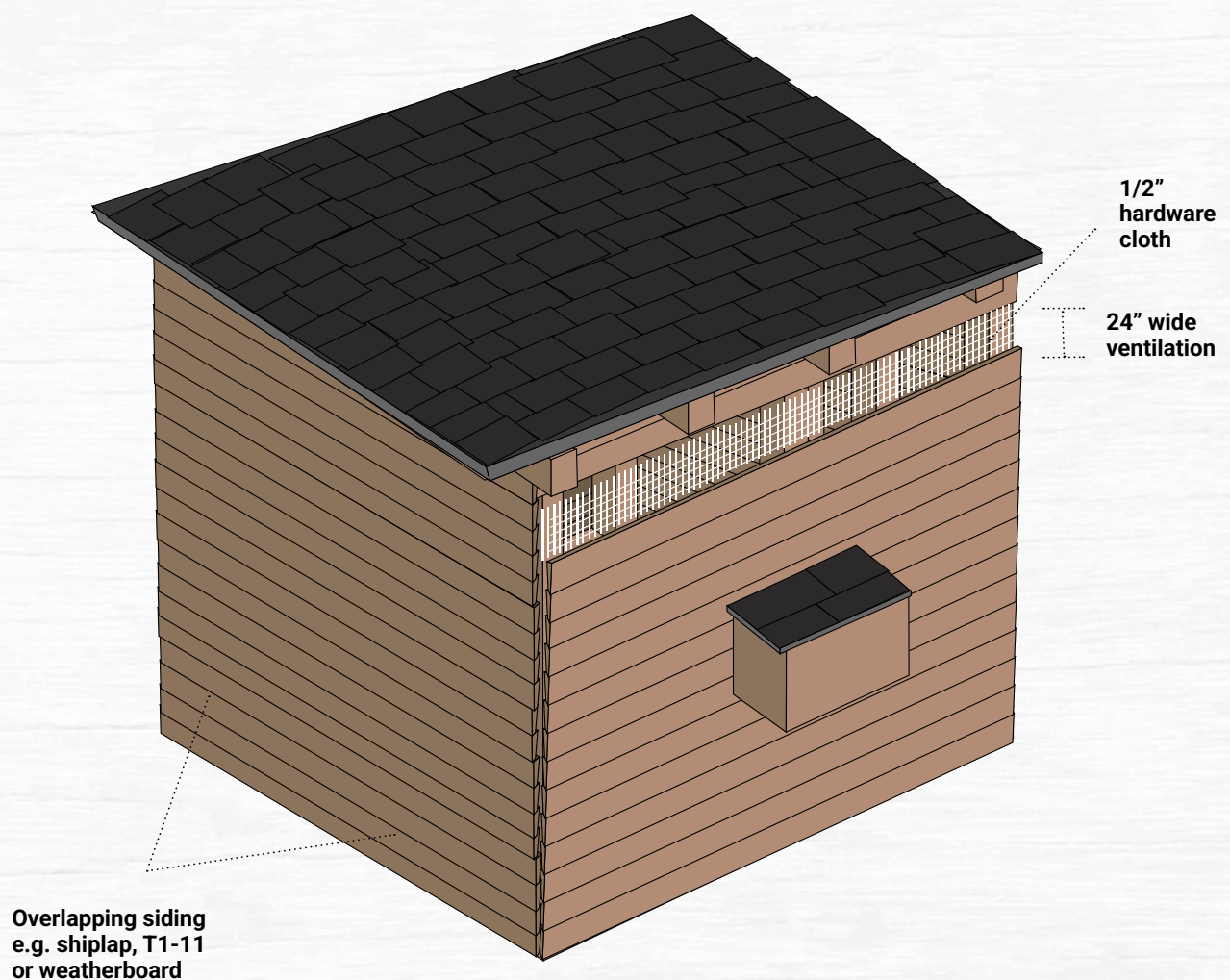


STEP 6

Exterior Cladding & Weatherproofing

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 ½" screws**.
- In the front and back walls, cut a vent **24" wide** at the very top. Cover these two openings with **1/2" hardware cloth** using **1" screws** with **1/2" washers**.



STEP 7

Finishing Touches

Painting:

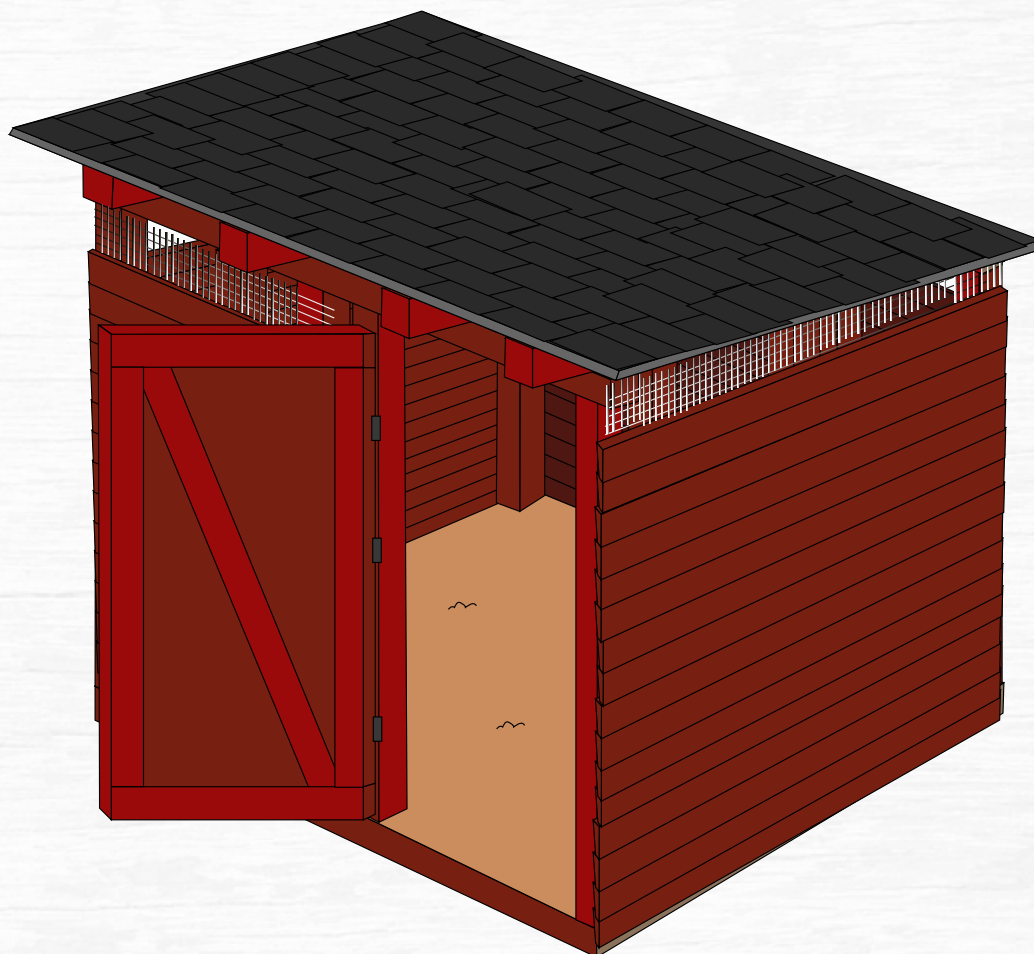
- Paint or stain the exterior of the coop frame with **weatherproof exterior paint**.
- Ensure all exposed wood and roof edges are sealed.

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.