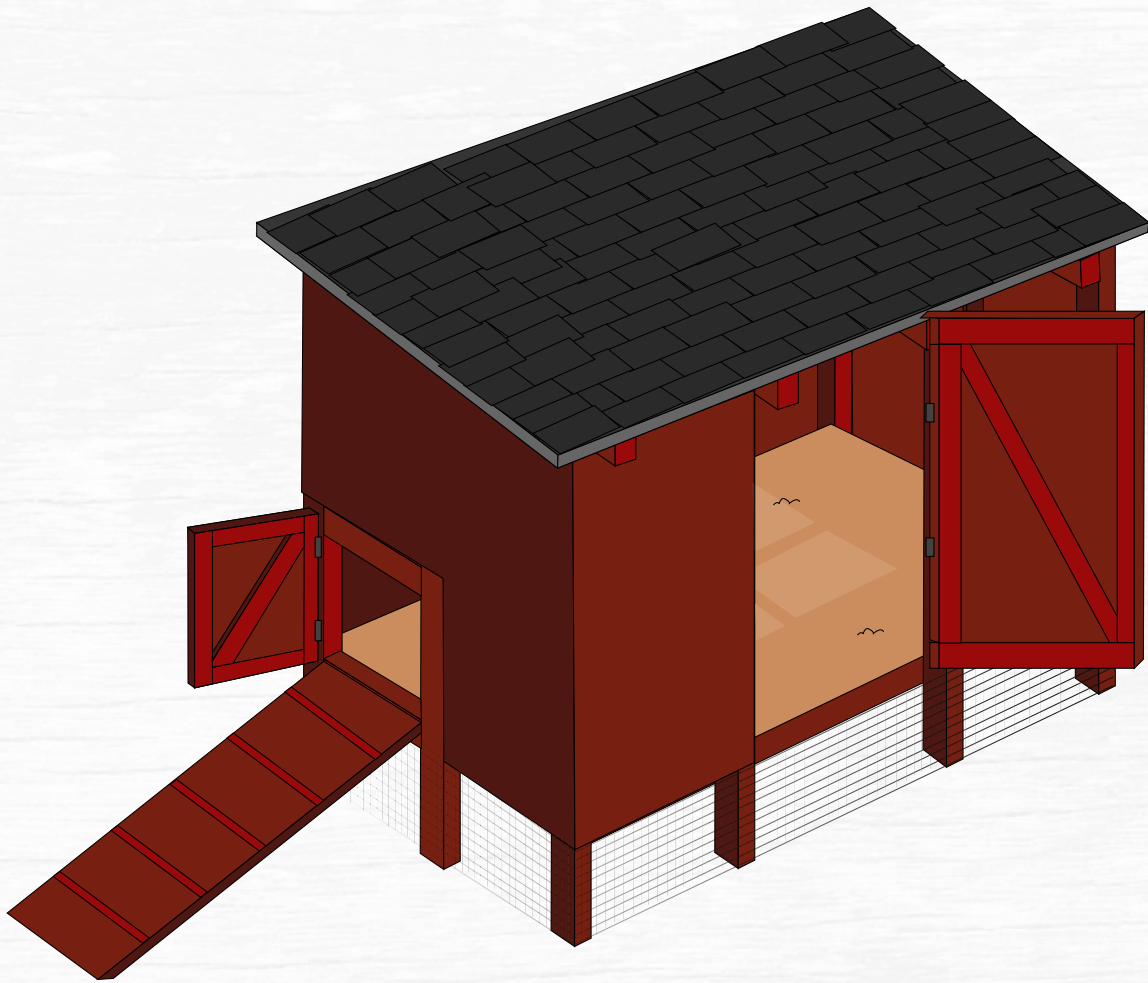


AN EASY STEP-BY-STEP

4x6 Chicken Coop Plan



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



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Ready to build a solid, weatherproof chicken coop that's big enough for your flock and easy to maintain?

This 4 ft x 6 ft raised chicken coop is a solid, no-nonsense build designed for folks who want something dependable that will hold up season after season. With 24 square feet of interior space, this coop comfortably houses 2 to 4 chickens, giving them enough room to roost and lay while keeping things easy to manage for daily care and cleaning.

MATERIALS LIST

LUMBER / WOOD:

- **4x4s (pressure-treated):** 4 pieces, 8' long
- **2x8s (pressure-treated):** 1 piece, 4' long
- **2x4s (pressure-treated):** 4 pieces, 8' long & 2 pieces, 4' long
- **1x4s (pressure-treated):** 4 pieces, 8' long
- **Standard 2x4s:** 16 pieces, 8' long & 12 pieces, 4' long
- **1/2" exterior-grade plywood:** 6 sheets, 4' x 8'
- **3/4" exterior-grade plywood:** 1 sheet, 4' x 8'

HARDWARE:

- **1/2" x 6" galvanized carriage bolts:** 8
- **1/2" galvanized washers:** 8
- **1/2" galvanized hex nuts:** 8
- **Screws:** 1 1/4" screws: 1 lbs, 1 1/2" screws: 1 lbs, 3" screws: 5 lbs
- **1/2" galvanized nails:** 1 lbs
- **Hinges:** Heavy-duty door hinges: 3 (cleaning door), medium-duty hinges: 2 (nesting box lid)
- **Heavy-duty locking latches, padlock-compatible:** 4 (main door, nesting box and chicken door)
- **6" door pull** (Main door)
- **24" x 24" pre-hung windows:** 1
- **1/2" galvanized hardware cloth:** 45 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, like ramp and rafters)
-

DRILLING & FASTENING:

- **Drill/driver** (corded or cordless)
 - **Drill bits** (for pilot holes)
 - **Screwdriver bits** for 1 ½" and 3" screws
 - **Adjustable wrench** (to tighten the hex nuts onto your carriage bolts)
 - **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)
-

SAFETY:

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

STEP 1

Preparing the Base

Prepare the Site:

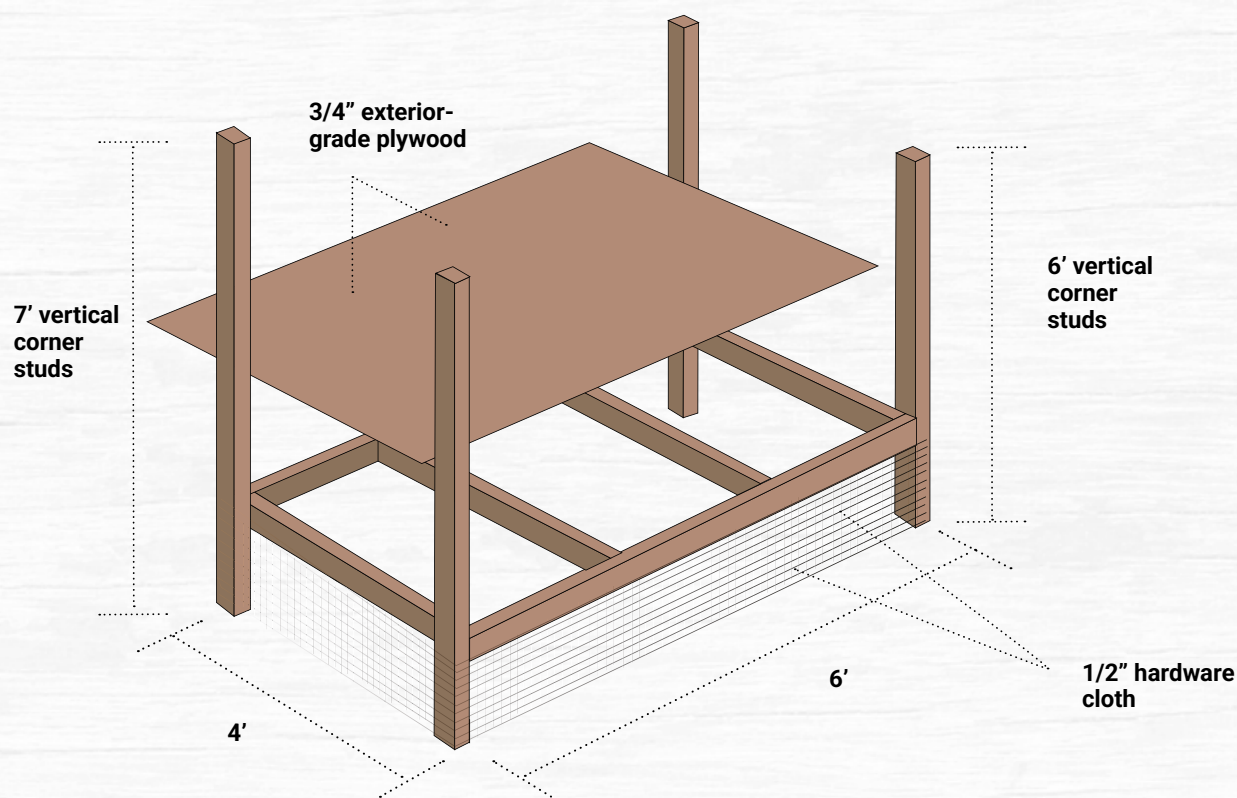
- Clear the ground where the coop will sit. Ensure it's level to prevent issues with the structure later.

Frame the Corners:

- Use **two pressure-treated 2x4s at 6'** to form the bottom horizontal supports.
- Use **two pressure-treated 4x4s at 7'** for the vertical corner studs on each side of one **6'** horizontal support.
- Use **two pressure-treated 4x4s at 6'** for the vertical corner studs on each side of the other **6'** horizontal support.
- Assemble using **3" screws**, ensuring the angles are square.

Frame the Base:

- Use **four standard 2x4s** to form the base frame: **two 5' 4" lengths** for the sides, and **two 3' 4" lengths** for the front and back.
- Assemble to the corner frames at **12" high** using **1/2" x 6" galvanized carriage bolts**, ensuring the angles are square.
- Add **two standard 2x4s at 4'** for the cross braces (**2' apart**) for extra support.
- Install **3/4" exterior-grade plywood sheets** over the floor frame to fully cover the **4 ft x 6 ft platform**. Stagger seams where possible. Fasten with **1 1/4" screws**.
- Attach **1/2" hardware cloth** to the exterior of base frame and bottom horizontal supports to cover all four sides.



STEP 2

Framing the Walls

Front Wall Frame (Tall Side):

- Use **two standard 2x4s** for 6' vertical studs. Space them **16"** from each side, leaving an opening of **24"** for the window width.
- Use a **standard 2x4** at 6' for the top horizontal framing, ensuring it is level.
- Use **two standard 2x4s** at 24" for the horizontal top and bottom window framing, ensuring an opening of **24" x 24"**.
- Assemble with **3" screws**.

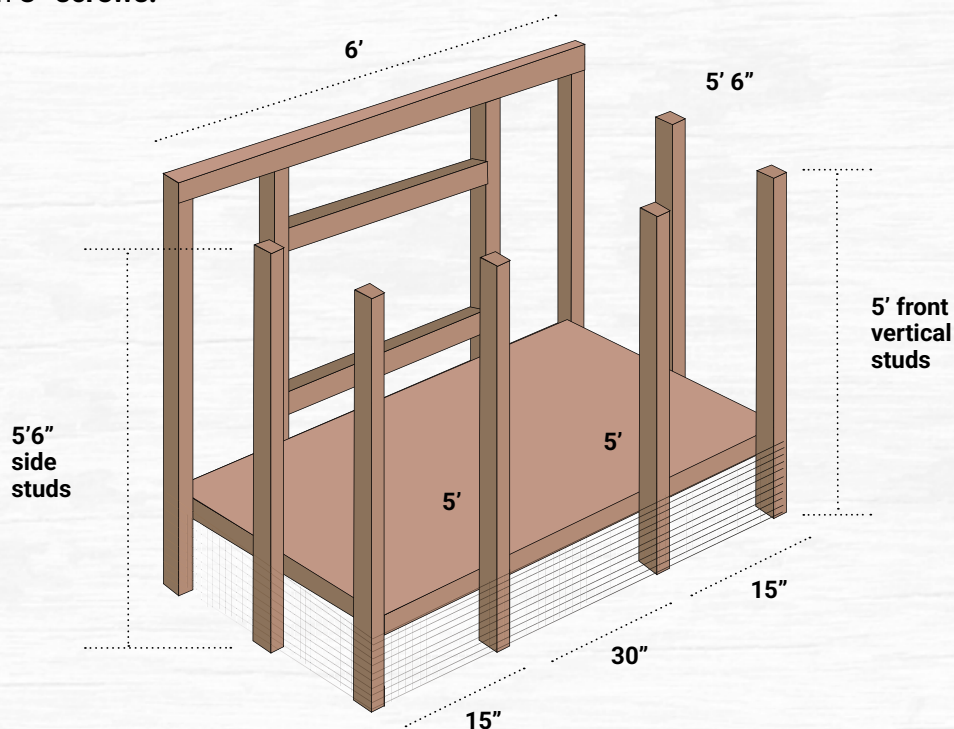
Back Wall Frame (Short Side):

- Use **two standard 2x4s** for 5' vertical studs and space them approximately **15"** apart, leaving an opening of **30"** for the cleaning door width.
- Use a **standard 2x4** at 6' for the top horizontal framing.
- Assemble with **3" screws**.

Side Walls:

To create the slope, the studs will vary:

- Use the **7' corner studs** from the front wall and the **6' 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 at **24"** 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:

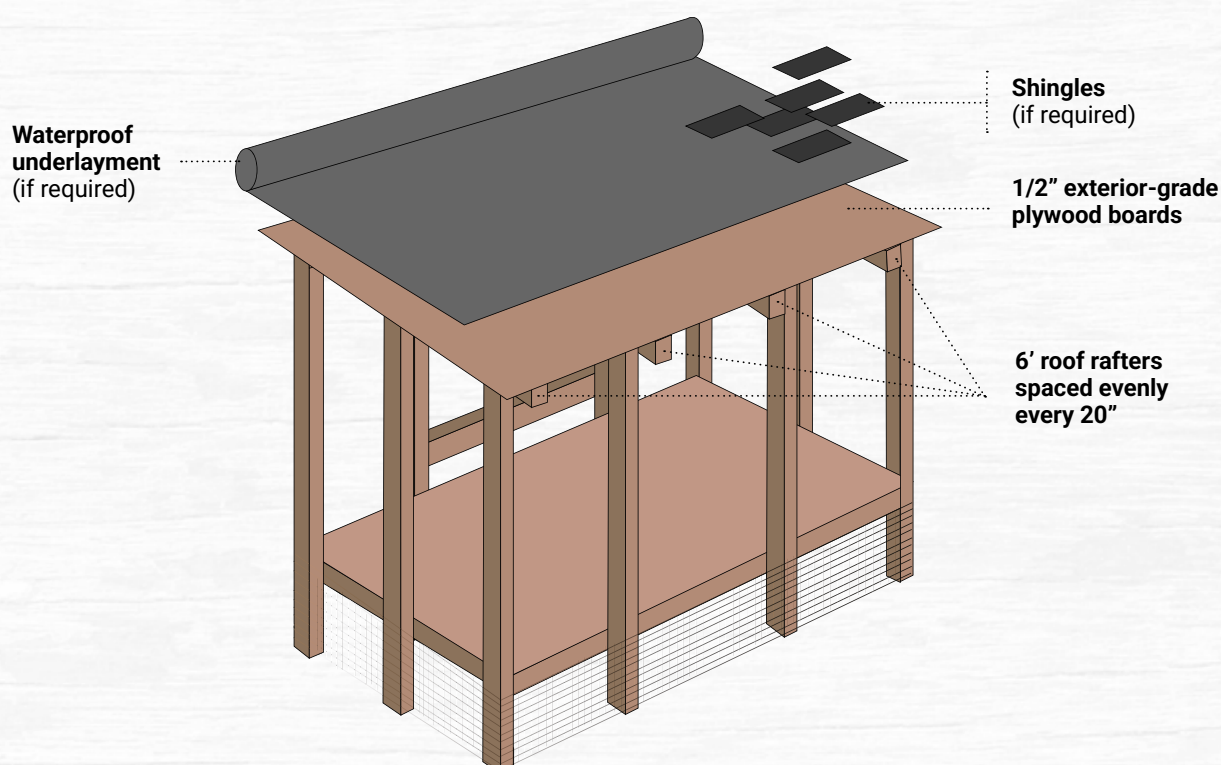
- Attach the rafters to the top frame using **3" screws**, ensuring the rafters are evenly spaced at around every **20"** for stability.

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

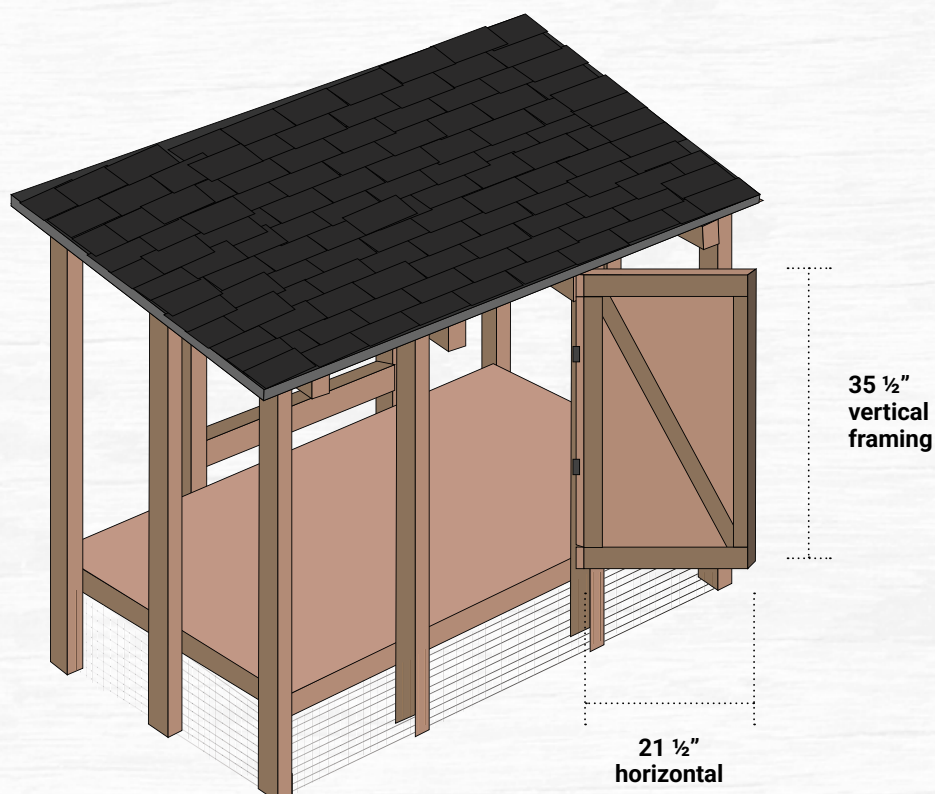
Installing Doors

Cleaning Door:

- Use **two standard 2x4s** for the **30"** horizontal top and bottom frames of the chicken door. Install them **36"** apart between two vertical studs on the back wall.
- Cut a piece of **1/2" exterior-grade plywood** to be **29 1/2" x 35 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 **35 1/2"**.
- Use **two standard 2x4s** at **21 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**.

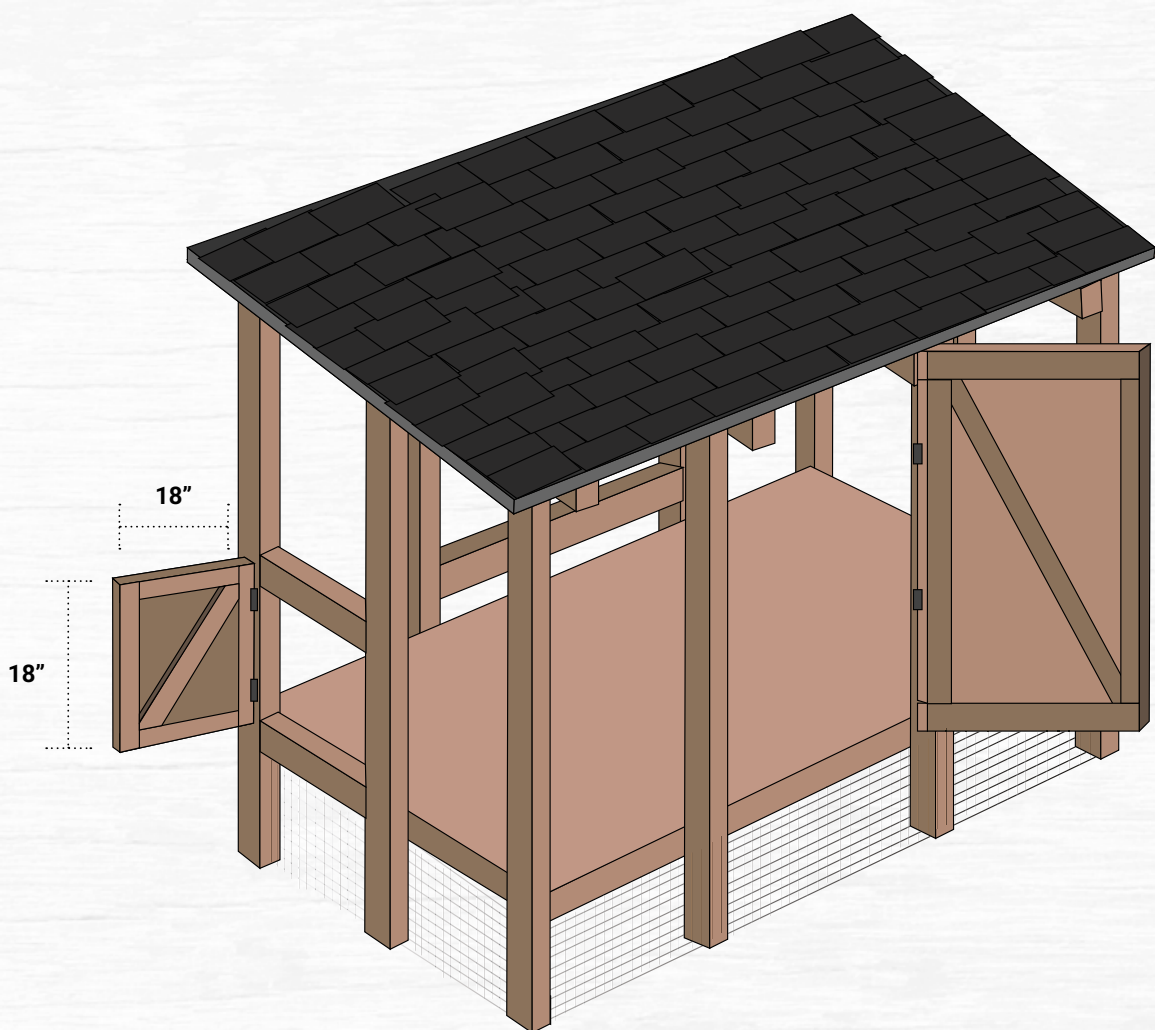
Attach Hinges & Latch:

- Attach **2 heavy-duty hinges** to the door and the coop frame, on one side wall.
- 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.



Chicken Door:

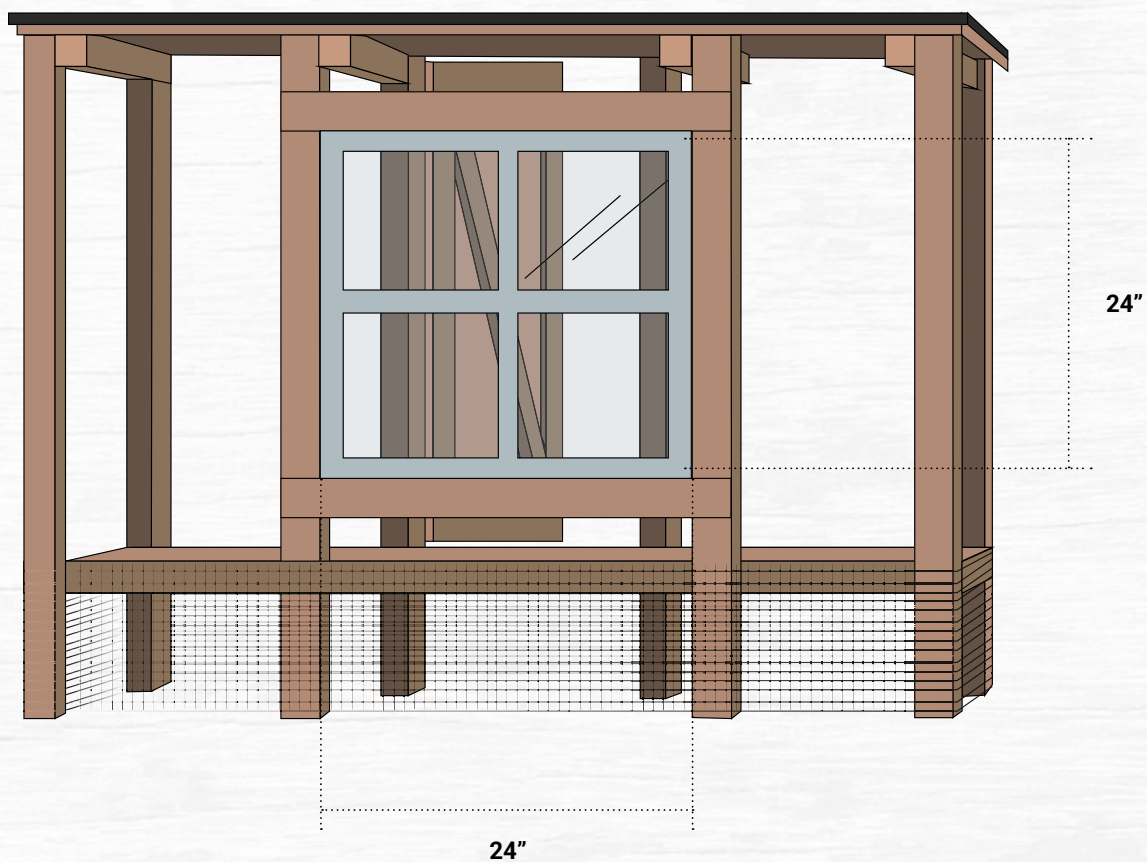
- Use **two standard 2x4s** for the **19"** horizontal top and bottom frames of the chicken door. Install them **19"** apart between two vertical studs, at the bottom of the side wall frame.
- Cut **3/4" exterior-grade plywood** to **18 1/2" x 18 1/2"**.
- Use **two standard 2x4s** at **10 1/2"** for vertical side framing.
- Use **two standard 2x4s** at **18 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 5

Installing Window

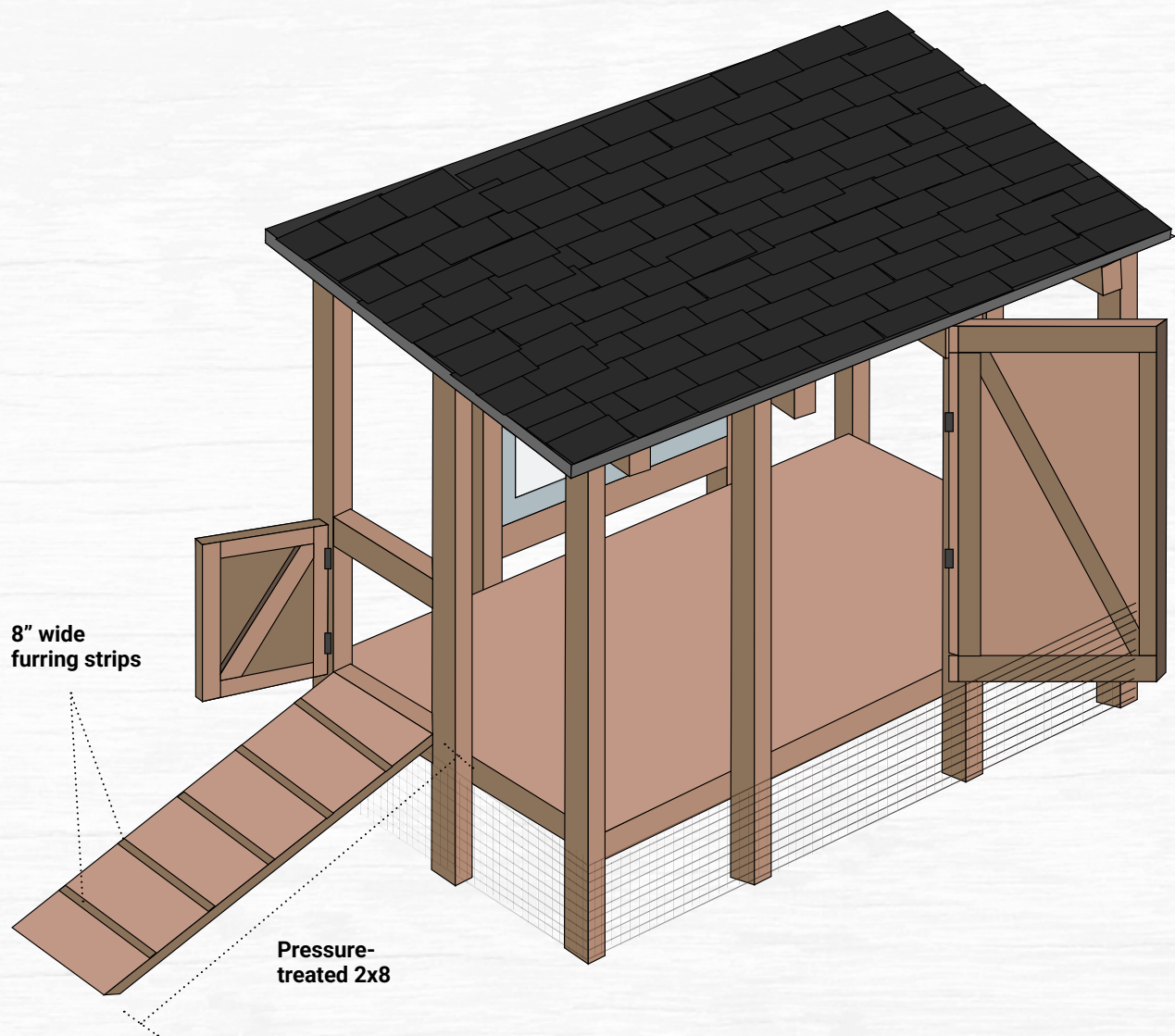
- Lift your **24" x 24" pre-hung window** into the framed opening on the front wall to ensure a proper fit.
- Apply a thick bead of **exterior-grade silicone caulk** around the back of the window flange before inserting it into the opening.
- Place the window in the opening. Use a level to ensure it 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 6

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 **1x4 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 7

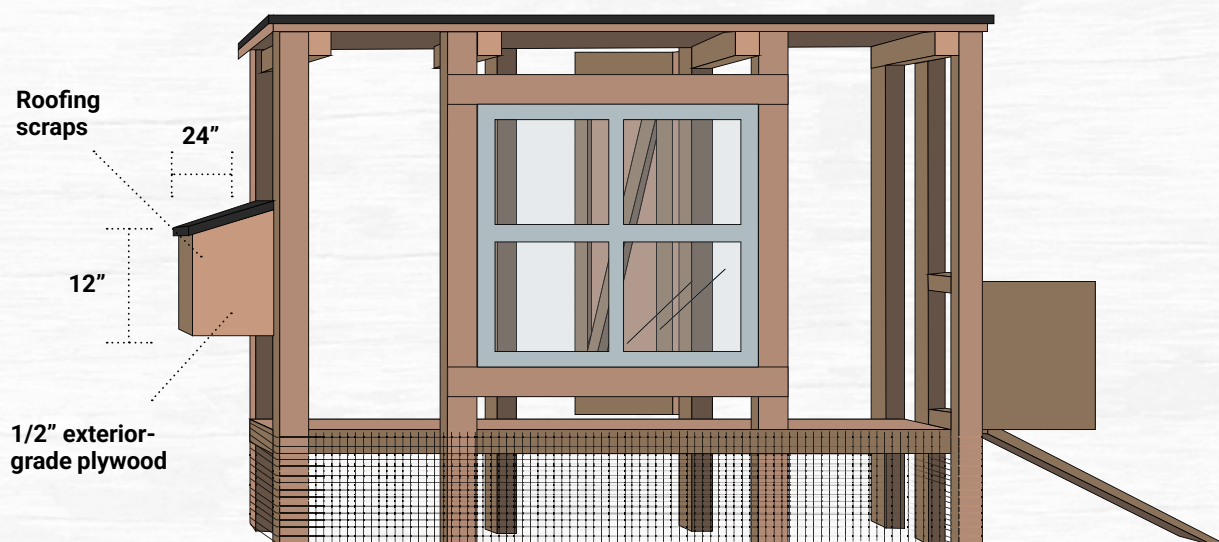
Nesting Boxes & Roosting Bar

Nesting Box:

- Install **two standard 2x4s** at **12"** to the exterior side wall (opposite to chicken door wall) to frame the vertical sides of the **24" x 14" rectangle hole**.
- Install **two standard 2x4s** at **16"** to the exterior back wall to frame the horizontal top and bottom of the **24" x 14" rectangle hole**.
- Cut a box from **1/2" exterior-grade plywood**. Two sides at **12" x 12"**, floor at **24" x 12"**, and the front wall at **24" 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 **24" x 14" opening**.
- The nesting box roof should have a roughly **9-degree slope**. Cut **1/2" exterior-grade plywood** to be **24" 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.

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 8

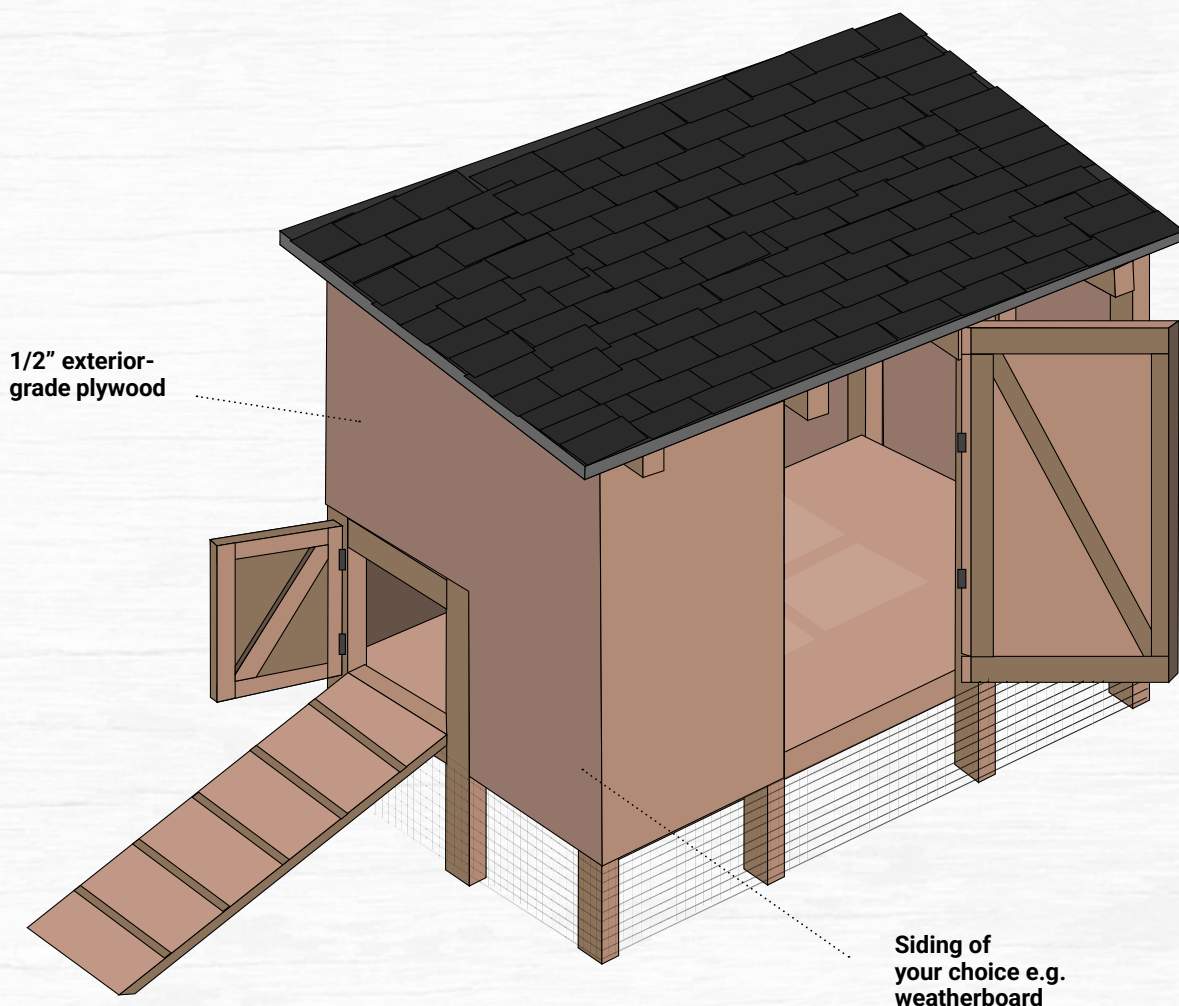
Exterior Cladding & Weatherproofing

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 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**.

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

Finishing Touches

Painting:

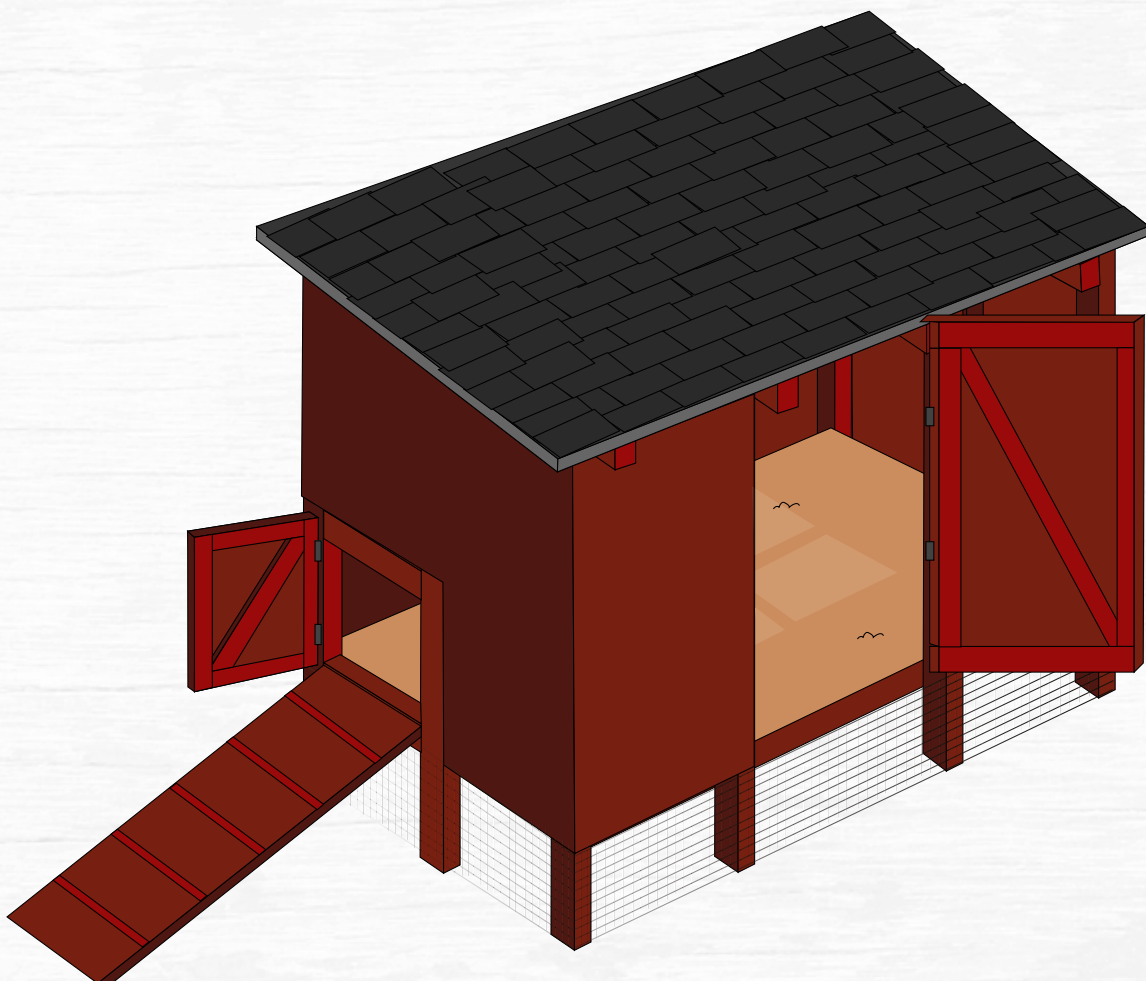
- Paint or stain the exterior of the coop frame with **weatherproof exterior paint**.
- Ensure all exposed wood and roof edges are sealed.

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.