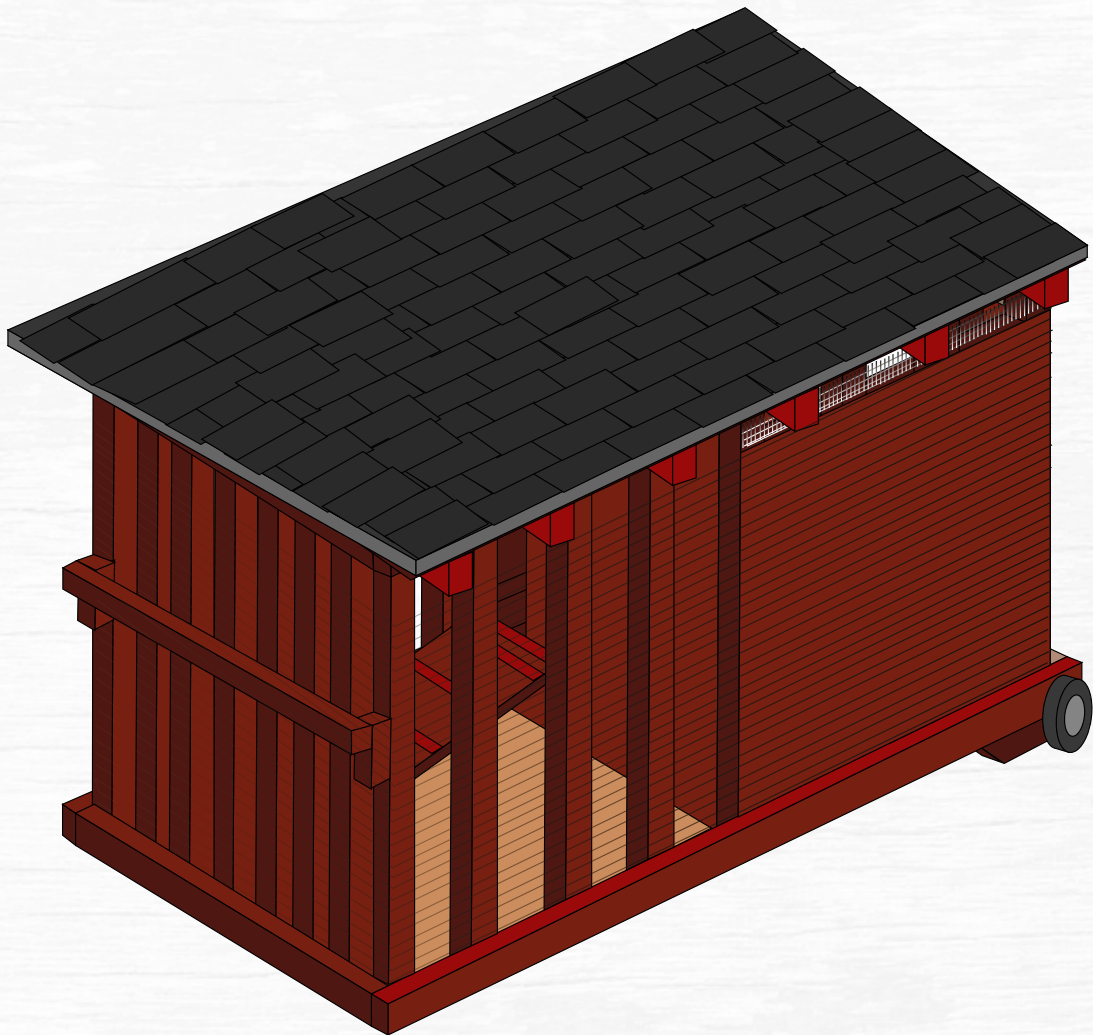


AN EASY STEP-BY-STEP

4x8 Movable Chicken Coop Plan



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



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Build a durable, weatherproof 4x8 movable chicken coop to keep your flock safe and comfortable!

This coop features a sturdy design, a secure nesting box, and ample space for your chickens to roam. The spacious layout allows for great ventilation, while its mobility makes it a versatile option for different yard spaces. Whether you're starting a new flock or upgrading your current setup, this coop will stand up to the elements and keep your chickens happy.

MATERIALS LIST

LUMBER / WOOD:

- **4x4s (pressure-treated):** 4 pieces, 8' long
- **2x8s (pressure-treated):** 1 piece, 4' long
- **2x4s (pressure-treated):** 2 pieces, 8' long & 2 pieces, 4' long
- **1x4s (pressure-treated):** 3 pieces, 8' long
- **Standard 2x4s:** 42 pieces, 8' long & 13 pieces, 4' long
- **1/2" exterior-grade plywood:** 9 sheets, 4' x 8'
- **3/4" exterior-grade plywood:** 1 sheet, 4' x 8'
- **1x4 Furring Strips / Ramp Treads:** 1 piece, 8' long

HARDWARE:

- **Screws:** 1" screws with 1/2" washers: 500, 1 1/4" screws: 2 lbs, 1 1/2" screws: 2 lbs, 3" screws: 6 lbs
- **3" carriage bolts (with nuts and washers):** 4
- **8" fixed heavy-duty wheels:** 2
- **24" x 24" pre-hung windows:** 1
- **Heavy-duty door hinges:** 3 (walk-in door)
- **Medium-duty hinges:** 5 (cleaning door and nesting box lid)
- **Heavy-duty locking latches, padlock-compatible:** 4 (main door and nesting box)
- **6" door pull:** 2 (main door and cleaning door)
- **1/2" galvanized hardware cloth:** 250 square feet (for predator-proofing)
- **Roofing materials (metal sheets or asphalt shingles):** check packaging for 65 sq. ft. coverage
- **Exterior-grade silicone caulk:** 2 tubes
- **Exterior paint or stain (weatherproof):** 1 gallon (optional)

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", and 3" 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)
 - **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

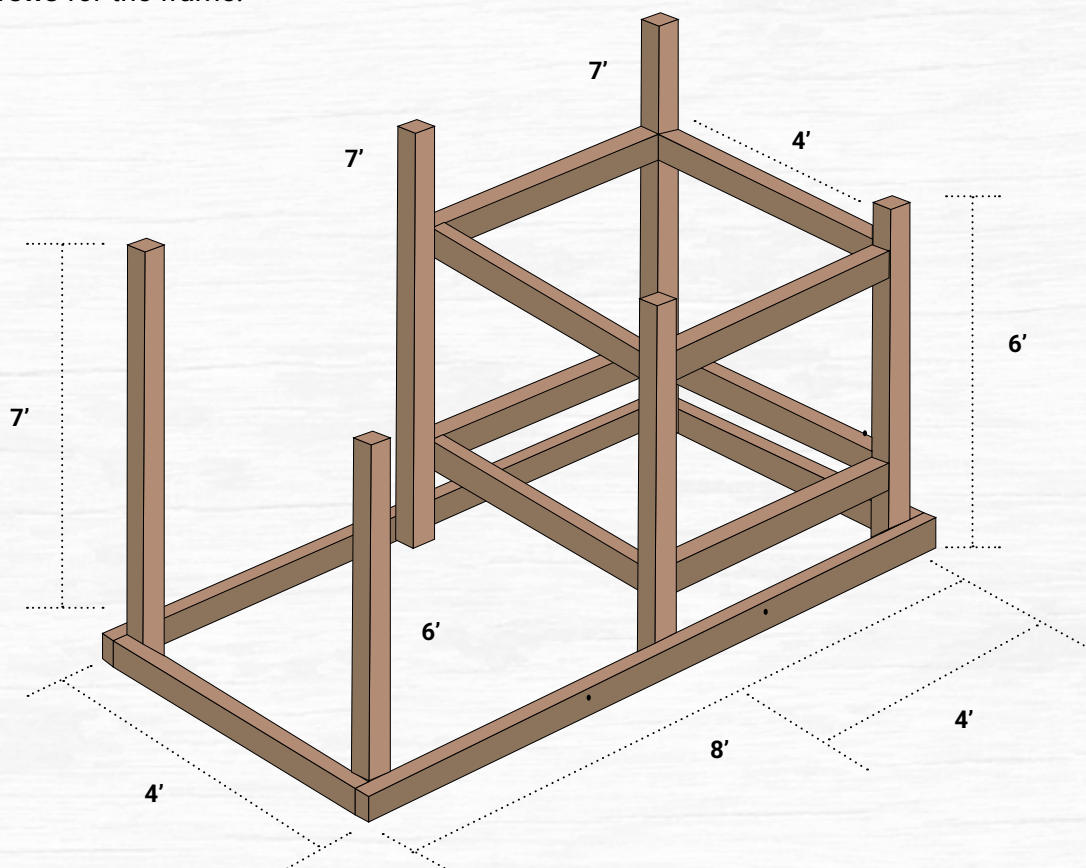
Preparing the Base

Frame the Corners:

- Use **two pressure-treated 2x4s at 8'** to form the bottom horizontal supports.
- Use **two pressure-treated 4x4s at 7'** for the vertical corner studs on each side of one **8'** horizontal support.
- Use **two pressure-treated 4x4s at 6'** for the vertical corner studs on each side of the other **6'** horizontal support.
- Use **two pressure-treated 2x4s at 4'** to form bottom side horizontal supports.
- Assemble using **3" screws**, ensuring the angles are square.

Frame Enclosed Coop:

- Use a **standard 2x4 cut to 6'** as a vertical stud and install on the back wall, **4'** from the side wall.
- Use a **standard 2x4 cut to 7'** as a vertical stud and install on the front wall, **4'** from the side wall.
- Install **two 4' horizontal standard 2x4s**, and **two 3' 8" horizontal standard 2x4s at 12" high** to frame the bottom.
- Add **one 3' 8" horizontal standard 2x4** at the center for the cross brace.
- Install **two 4' horizontal standard 2x4s** and **two 3' 8" horizontal standard 2x4s at 6' high** for the top framing.
- Use **3" screws** for the frame.



STEP 2

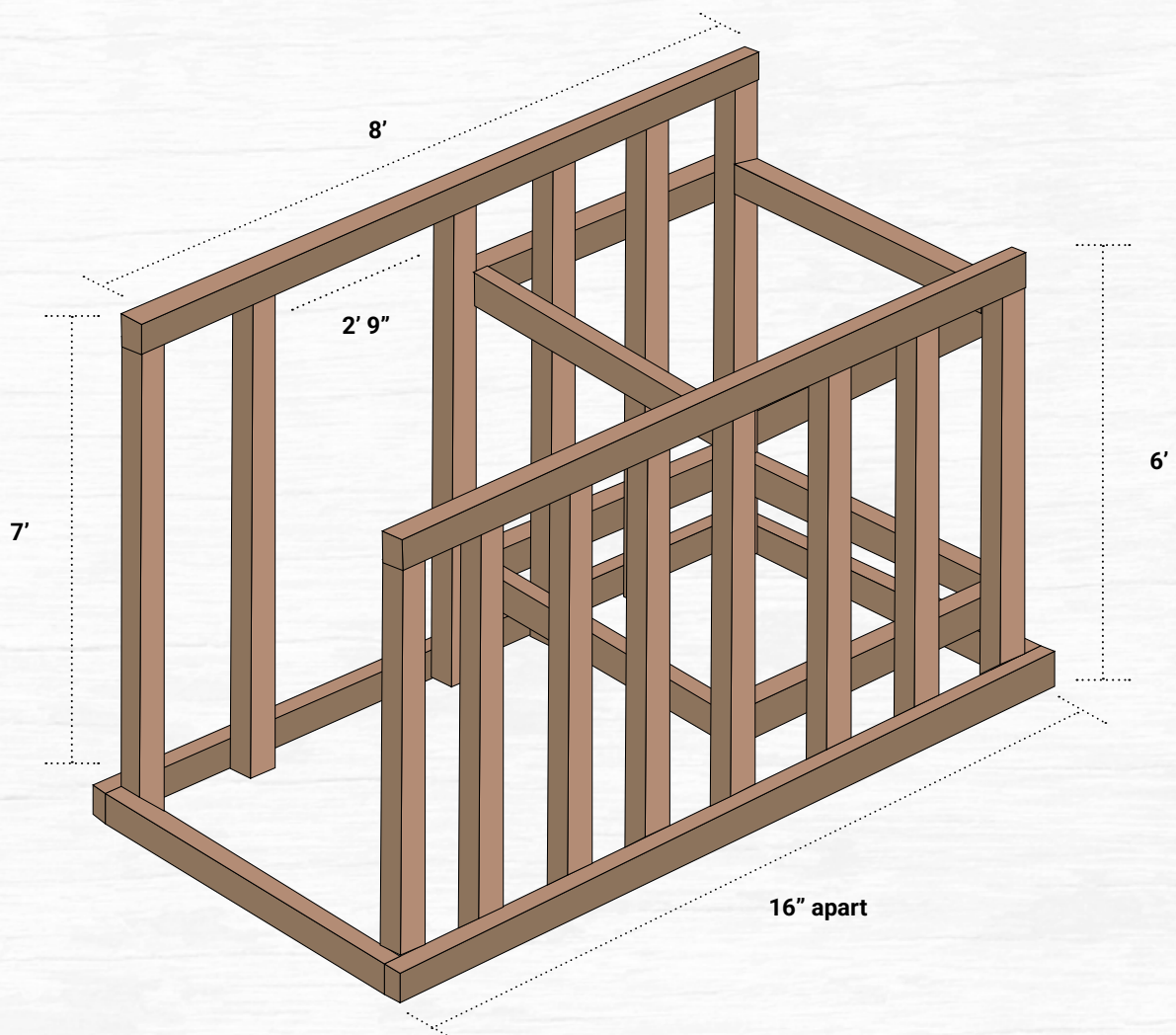
Framing Front & Back Walls

Front Wall Frame (Tall Side):

- Use **three standard 2x4s** for 7' vertical studs and space them between **16"** and **24"** apart, leaving an opening of approximately **2' 9"** for the door width.
- Use a **standard 2x4** at 8' for the top horizontal framing, ensuring it is level.
- Assemble with **3" screws**.

Back Wall Frame (Short Side):

- Use **five standard 2x4s** for 6' vertical studs and space them approximately **16"** apart.
- Use a **standard 2x4** at 8' for the top horizontal framing.
- Assemble with **3" screws**.



STEP 3

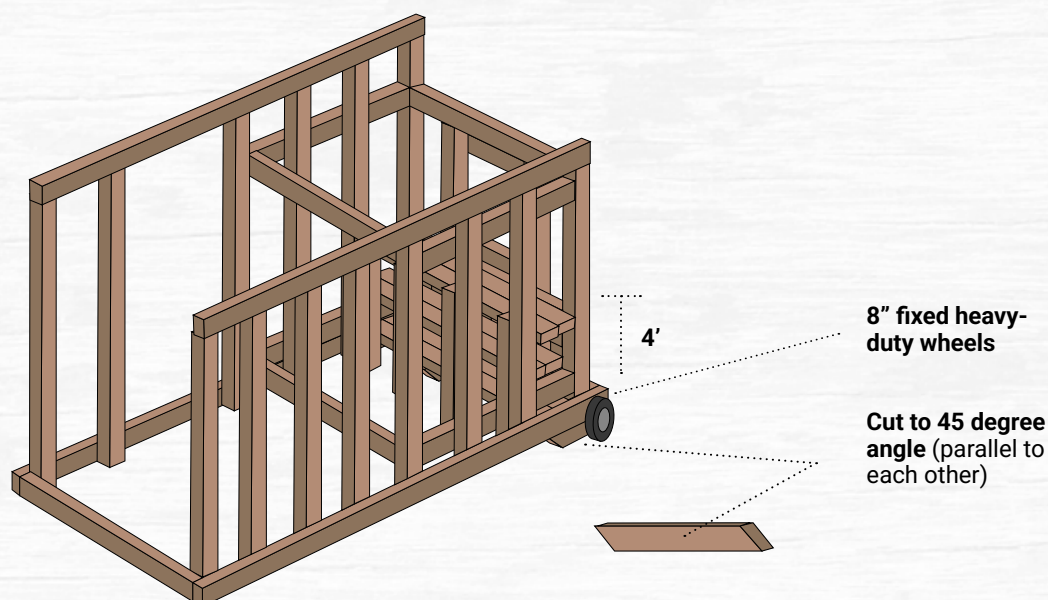
Framing Right Side Wall

Framing Nesting Boxes:

- Use **three standard 2x4s** for **24" vertical studs** and space them **12" apart**, to create the vertical wall studs of four nesting boxes.
- Use **five standard 2x4s** for **12" horizontal studs** and attach them perpendicular **24" up** the **7' and 6' vertical corner studs** and the top of the **three 24" vertical studs**.
- Use **two standard 2x4s** for the **4' horizontal bottom frames** of the nesting box width.
- Use **five standard 2x4s** for **10" vertical studs** and space them **12" apart** on top of the front **4' horizontal nesting box** bottom frame.
- Use **two standard 2x4s** for the **4' horizontal top frames** of the nesting box width.
- Use **three standard 2x4s** for the **12" cross braces**, cut both ends at **45-degree angles** (parallel to each other).
- Install the **12" cross braces** underneath the **4' horizontal bottom frame**, connecting them to the bottom of main vertical studs. Place one brace at each end and one in the centre to prevent the nesting boxes from sagging or pulling away from the wall.
- Assemble with **3" screws**.
- Install **two 8" fixed heavy-duty wheels** to the two end cross braces with **3" carriage bolts**.

Framing Window:

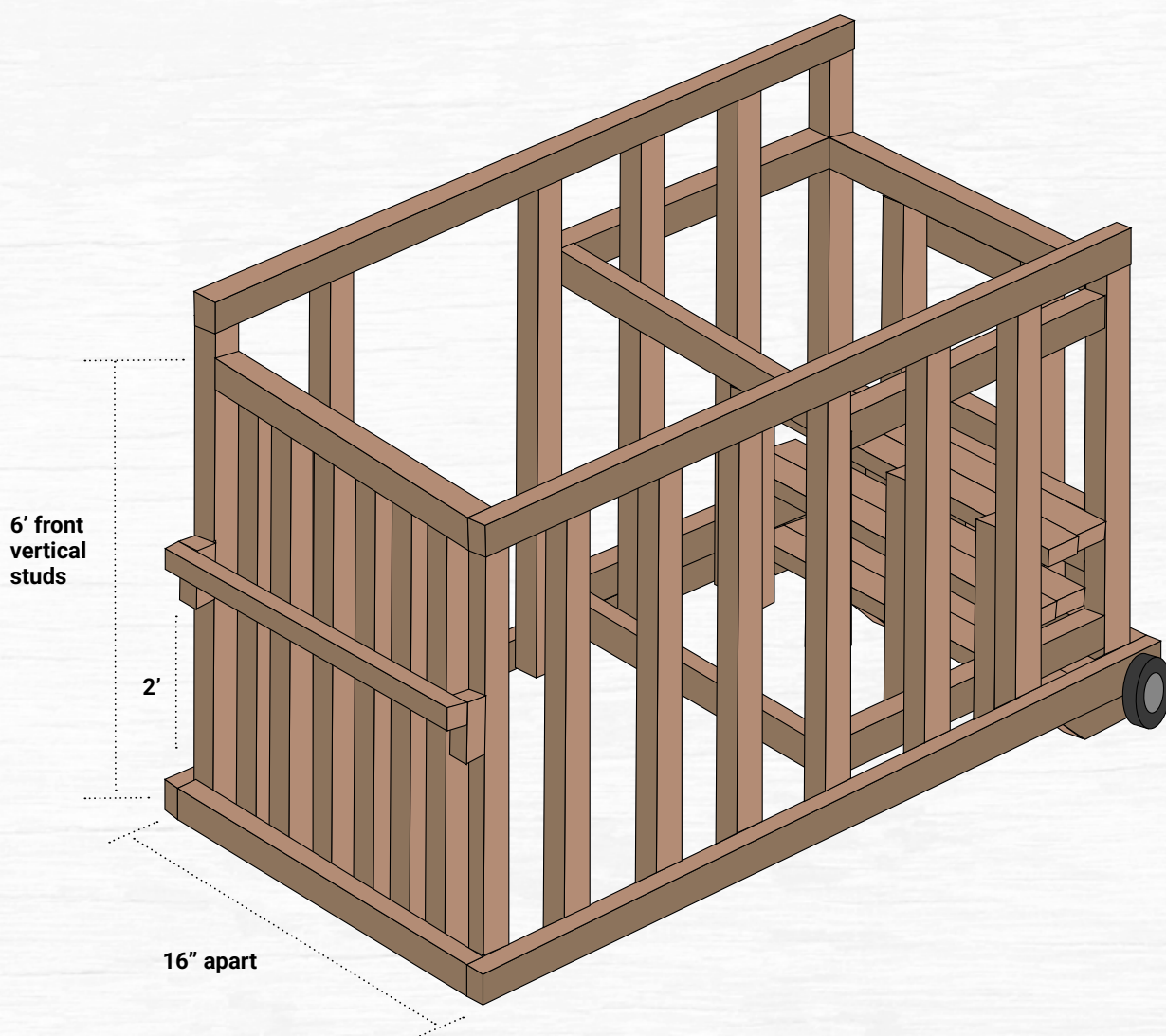
- Use **two standard 2x4s** at **3' 8"** as vertical studs of the window, attach on top of the **4'** nesting box top frame, leaving a width of **24"** for window opening.
- Use **two standard 2x4s** at **24"** for the horizontal top and bottom framing of each window.
- Use a **standard 2x4s** at **4'** for the horizontal top wall framing.
- Assemble with **3" screws**.



STEP 4

Framing Left Side Wall

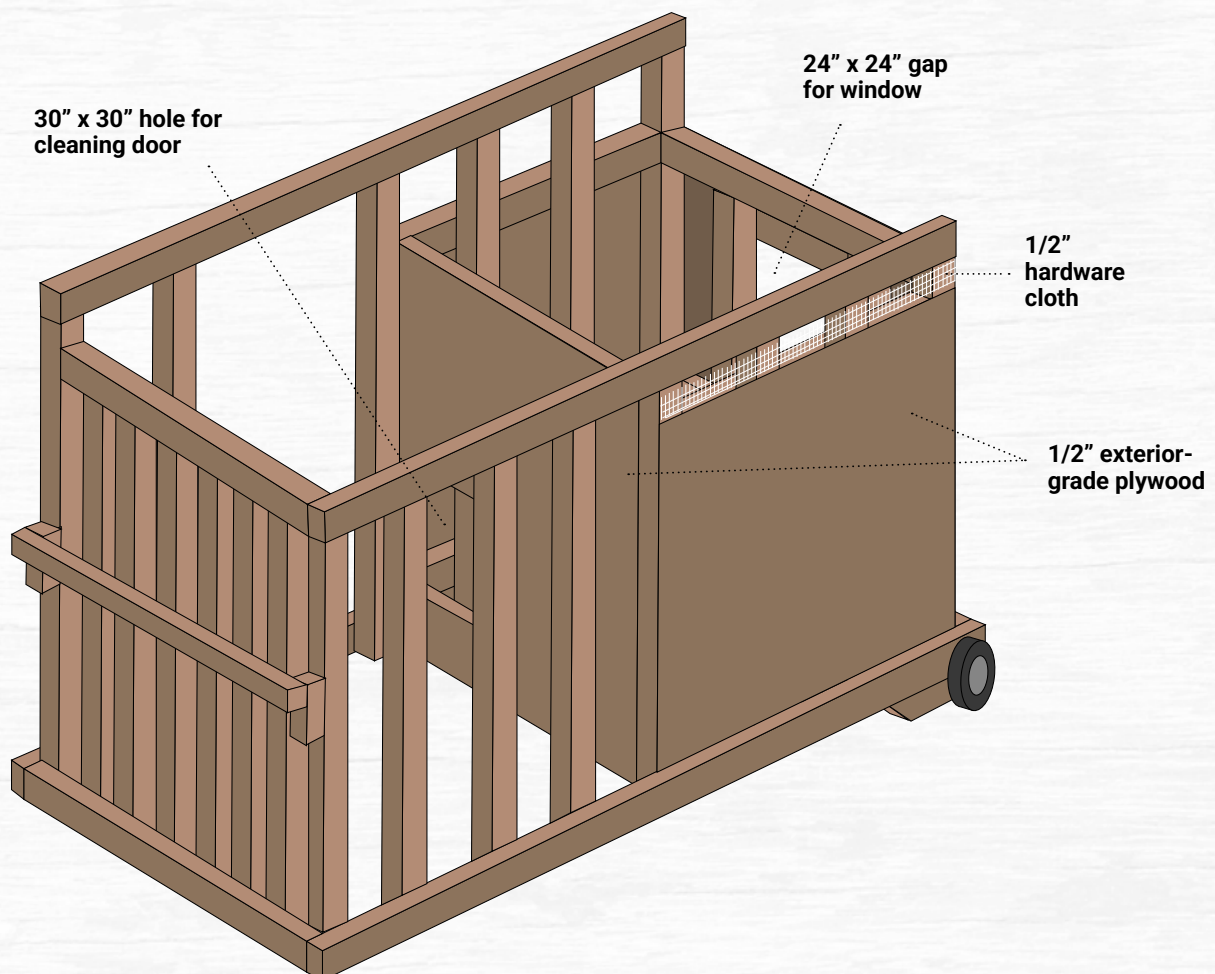
- Use **three standard 2x4s** for **6' vertical studs** and space them approximately **16" apart**.
- Use a **standard 2x4** at **4'** for the top horizontal framing.
- Use **two standard 2x4** at **2'** to attach handles at the required height of the corner vertical studs.
- Assemble with **3" screws**.



STEP 5

Walls, Floor & Roof of Enclosed Coop

- Screw **3/4" exterior-grade plywood** onto the horizontal frames to create the coop floor and roof.
- Use **1/2" exterior-grade plywood** to skin the sides, back and front of the structure, leaving a **4" opening** at the top of each side, for ventilation.
- On the exterior side wall, cut a **48" x 12" rectangle** to leave a gap for the nesting box, and a **24" x 24" gap** for the window.
- On the interior side wall, cut a **30" x 30" hole** for the cleaning door.
- Use **1 1/4" screws** to attach the plywood to the frame.
- Cover the ventilation openings on the inside with **1/2" hardware cloth**, fastened with **1" screws with 1/2" washers** to prevent predators or rodents from entering the sleeping area.



STEP 6

Roof Framing & Sheathing

Cut Roof Rafters:

- Use **six 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:

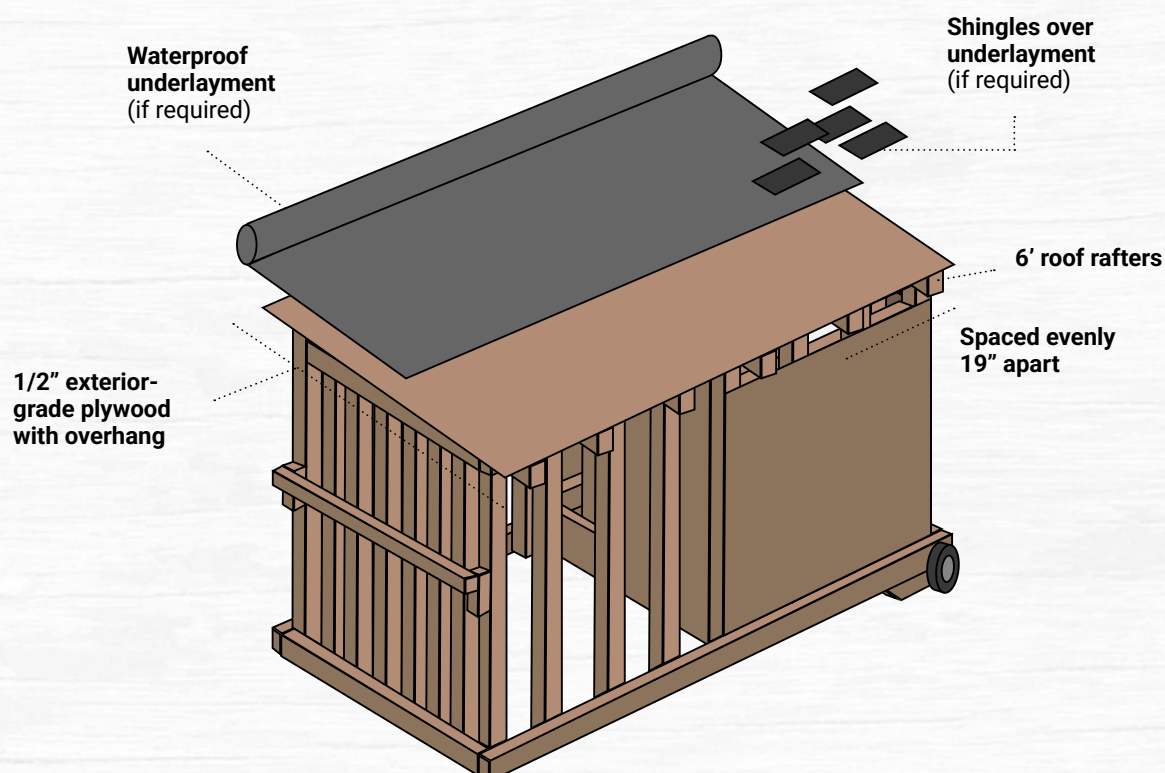
- Attach the rafters to the top frame using **3" screws**, ensuring the rafters are evenly spaced at around every **19"** for stability.

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:

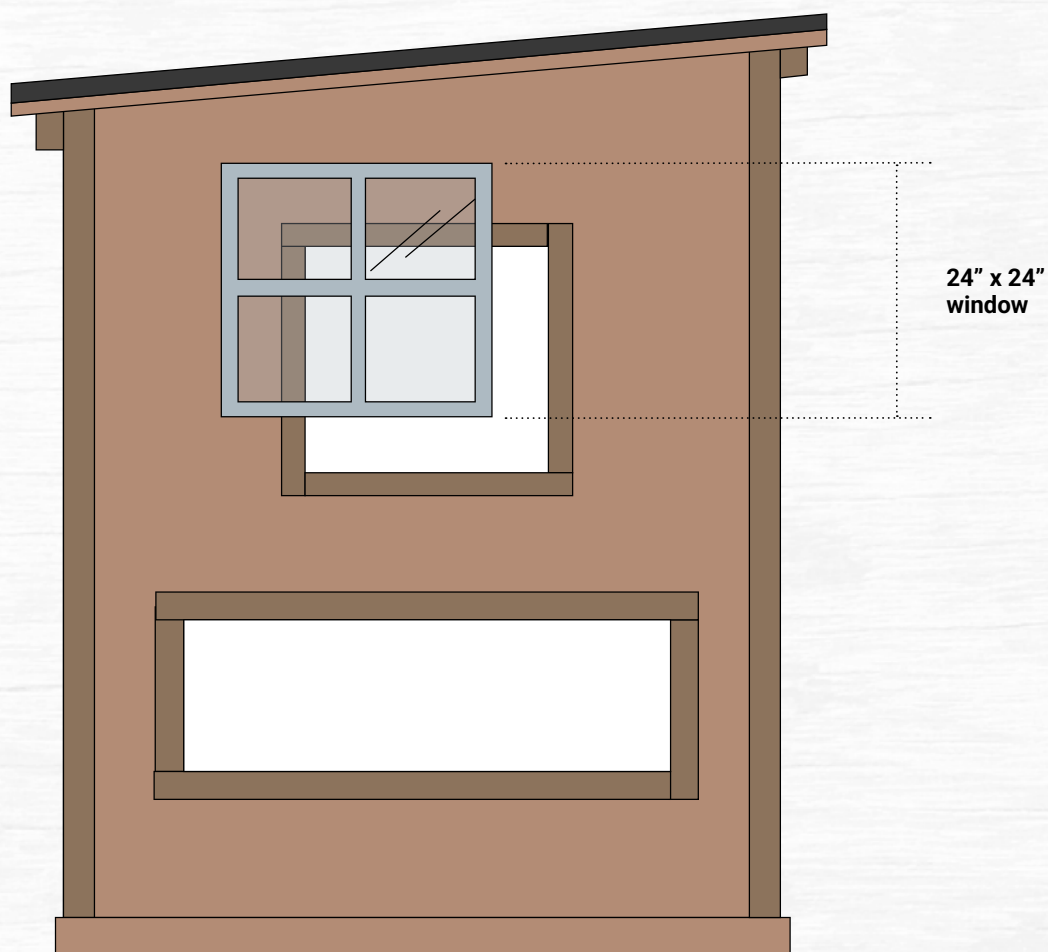
- If using shingles: Install a waterproof underlayment first, then apply the shingles according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- If using metal roofing, secure the metal sheets with appropriate fasteners.
- Ensure all edges are sealed and weatherproofed to prevent leaks.



STEP 7

Installing Windows

- Lift your **24" x 24" pre-hung window** into the framed opening 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

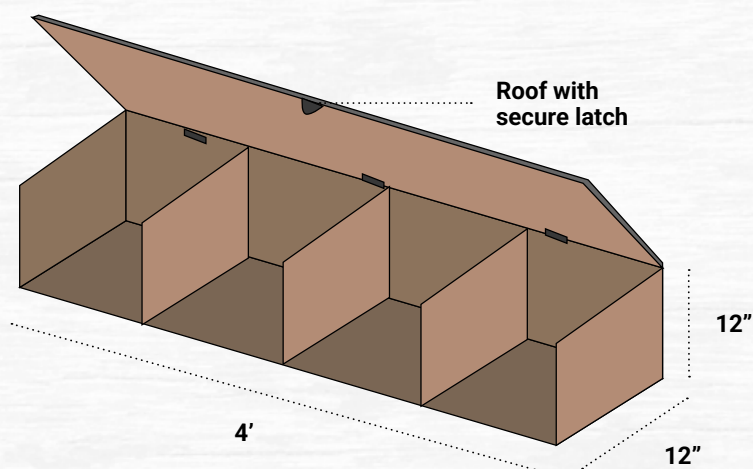
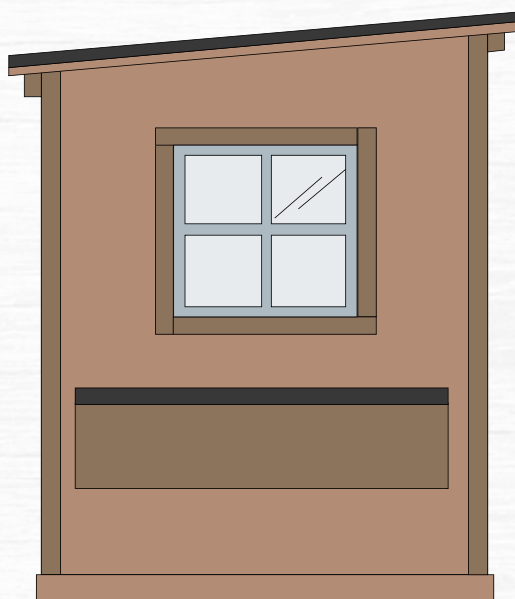
Nesting Boxes & Roosting Bar

Nesting Boxes:

- Cut four nesting boxes from **1/2" exterior-grade plywood**. Eight sides at **12" x 12"**, four floors at **12" x 12"**, and the front wall at **4' 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).
- The nesting box roof should have a roughly **9-degree slope**. Cut **1/2" exterior-grade plywood** to be **4' x 13"**.
- Attach **three 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 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 9

Installing Doors

Main Door:

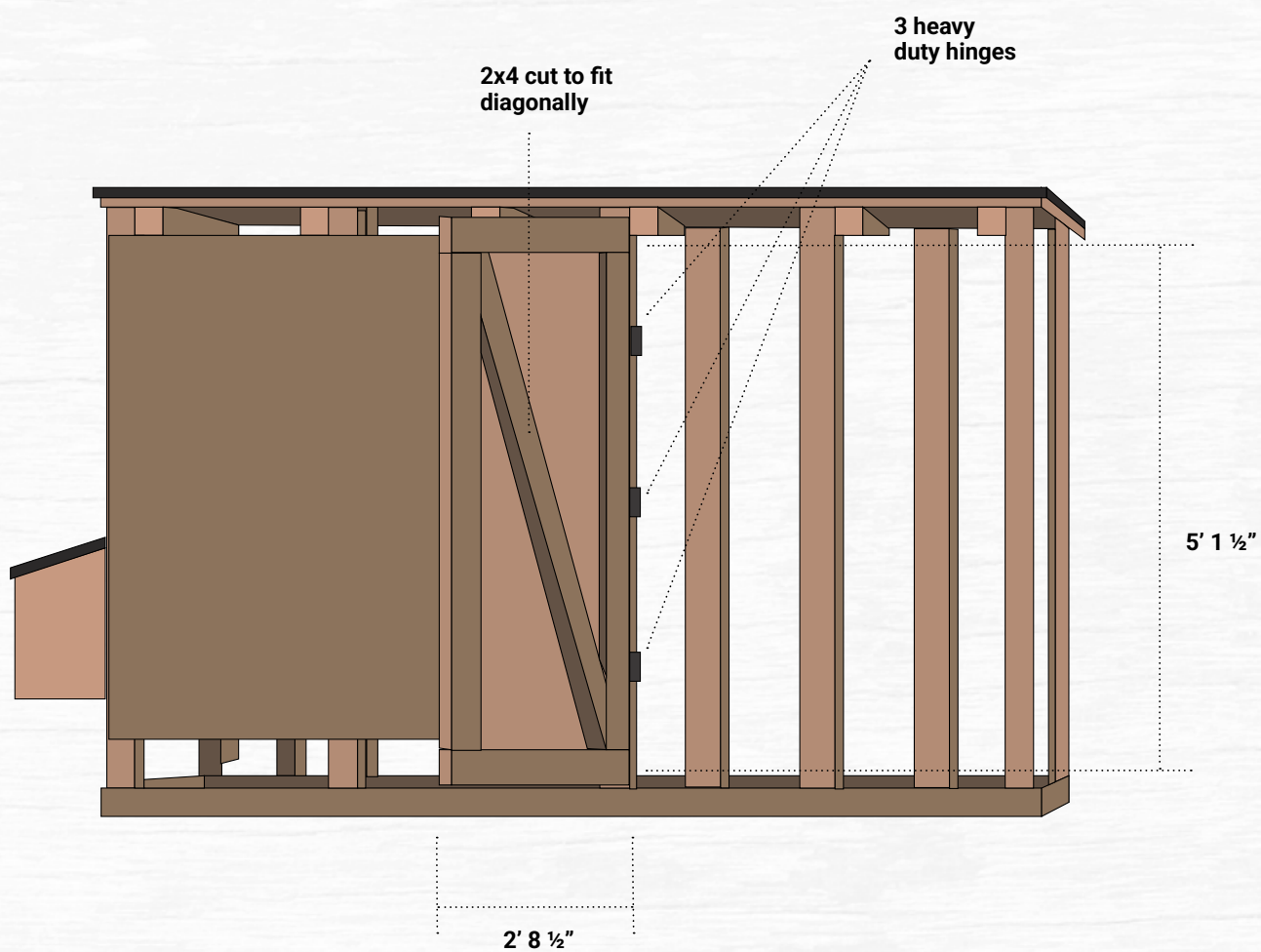
- Cut a piece of **1/2" exterior-grade plywood** to be **2' 8 1/2" x 5' 5 1/2"** (this **1/4" gap** on all sides prevents the door from sticking when the wood swells in the rain).
- Lay your plywood door flat. Use **standard 2x4s** for two vertical framing at **5' 1 1/2"**.
- Use **standard 2x4s** as two horizontal framing at **2' 8 1/2"**.
- Measure and cut a **standard 2x4** to fit diagonally inside that 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.

Cleaning Door:

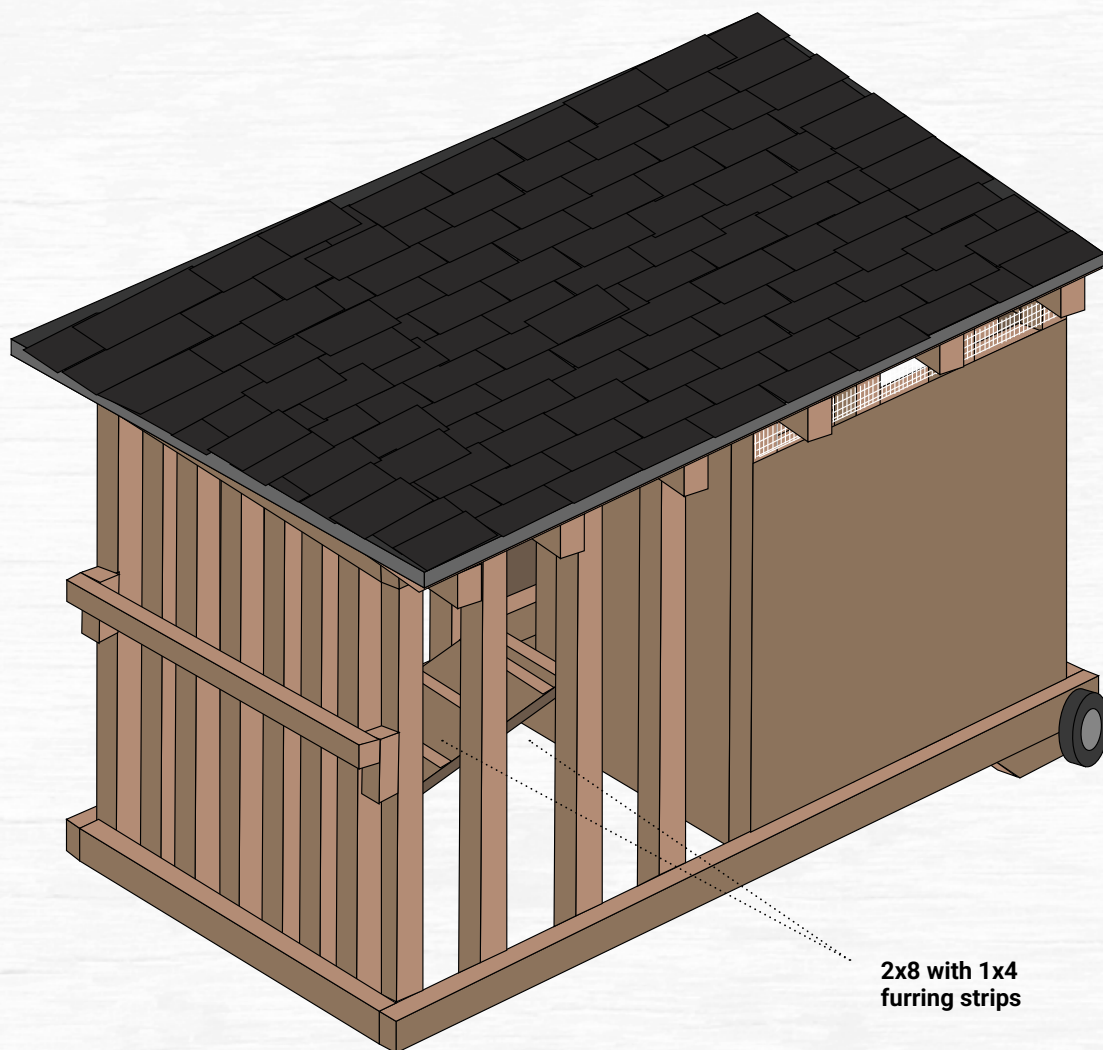
- Use **two standard 2x4s** for the **30"** horizontal top and bottom frames of the chicken door. Install them **30" apart** between two vertical studs on the interior side wall.
- Cut a piece of **1/2" exterior-grade plywood** to be **29 1/2" x 29 1/2"** (this **1/4" gap** on all sides prevents the 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 **29 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 **2 hinges** to the door and the coop frame, on one side wall.
- Finish the door installation by attaching a **6" door pull**.
- Ensure the door swings outward for safety.



STEP 10

Adding Ramp

- Cut one end of a **standard 2x8** at 3' to a **35-degree angle**, to make the ramp sit flush against the enclosed box.
- Cut **1x4 furring strips** to **8" wide pieces**, and screw onto the flat side of the **2x8 base** every **4" to 6"**.
- Position the ramp so the top meets the chicken door of the enclosed box.
- Screw the angled top of the ramp into the coop floor frame using **2" screws**.



STEP 11

Installing the Hardware Cloth

- Wrap **1/2" hardware cloth** horizontally around all exposed areas of framed walls.
- Fasten the wire to the wood using **1" screws** with **1/2" washers** every **4"**.

STEP 12

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.