



# Chick Care

**1** When taking your chicks home, give them access to warm (room temperature) drinking water as soon as possible. Gently dip their beaks in the water, so they know what it is and where it is. We recommend adding Chick E-lixir™ to drinking water daily. It is a natural approach to keeping chicks healthy by supporting developing immune systems and promoting bone growth. Chick E-lixir™ contains a unique blend of organic oregano essential oil, prebiotics, calcium, vitamins D & E, and electrolytes.

**2** Chicks should have a brooding area at least 105-degrees for the first hour and lower the temperature to 95-degrees over the next few hours. You can lower the temperature by lifting the heat lamp. Chicks should be in a brooding area that has a surface temperature of 90- 95-degrees for the first week. Lower the temperature by five-degrees per week until you reach 70-degrees. Temperatures may need to be slightly higher for bantam or polish chicks.

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#### WATCH THE CHICKS' BEHAVIOR TO SEE IF THE TEMPERATURE IS:

- A.** Too cold – most chicks crowding under the heat lamp.
  - B.** Too warm – most chicks spread out away from the heat lamp.
  - C.** Just right – some chicks are under the lamp, others are near the heat source, and a few are spread out in other areas.
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**3** Chicks should have at least a ½-square foot of space per chick to move away from the heating lamps if necessary.

**4** Block corners of the brooder with cardboard to make wider angles that are harder for chicks to pile on top of each other to prevent smothering.

**5** If chicks appear weak or lethargic upon arrival, mix about two-tablespoons of sugar into one-quart of warm water and give to the chicks. After 16-hours, switch to the regular water.

**6** To help chicks start eating, put chick feed on a small flat surface, like a container lid, so they can easily find the feed. This helps deter them from eating the bedding. We recommend using NatureServe® Starter/Grower and sprinkling First Peep™ on top of the feed. First Peep™ is a non-medicated feed supplement that naturally supports digestive health in baby chicks the first few weeks of life. It contains kelp, essential oils, and prebiotics.

**7** Use larger wood shavings as bedding on the floor of the brooding area. Do not use sawdust, sand, cedar chips or shavings, or newspaper. We recommend applying Coop Re cooperate™ over the wood shavings. Coop Re cooperate™ is the safe and natural way to care for your coop. Organic eucalyptus and lemongrass essential oils along with diatomaceous earth reduce odor and moisture and help improve the quality of your compost.

#### FOOD & WATER

**1** Give chicks a starter/grower feed until they lay their first egg, then switch to an egg layer feed. We recommend NatureServe® Chick Starter/Grower and NatureServe Layer Pellets that contain essential oils, prebiotics, and probiotics.

**2** Use an easily accessible one-foot trough feeder or round feeder and a one-gallon waterer for every 25 chicks.

**3** Chicks need continuous access to water and feed. If you have broilers, refer to the "Meat Bird Care" sheet for special feeding instructions to avoid ascites or water belly.

#### HEALTH TIPS

**1** Chicks will use their beaks to groom or peck themselves. Occasionally pecking amongst chicks will become a problem if the brooding area is too hot or too crowded. We suggest using a red heat lamp to reduce brightness and the tendency to peck at each other.

**2** Occasionally, the rear end of a chick will get manure stuck to it "pasting" up. If you see this happen, very gently wash the "paste" off with a cloth and warm water. Pasting should last no more than a few days and can be caused by stress from shipping.