

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Are any permits, licenses, fees, or prior approvals required from the City?

No permits, licenses, fees, or prior approvals are required in order to raise backyard chickens. However, Crystal City Code Section 910 must be followed when constructing the shelter (coop) and enclosure (run). EXCEPTION: If electrical work is to be done, an electrical permit must be applied for through the City.

2. How many chickens are allowed?

Up to four hen chickens are allowed on single or two-family residential properties. Chickens are not allowed on properties with three or more dwelling units.

3. I do not own my home. May I still raise backyard chickens?

Yes, if you live in a single or two-family residential property, but only if the property owner provides a written statement to the City, confirming that the tenant may have chickens on the property.

4. Can I keep chickens in my home or garage?

Chickens over 4 weeks of age may NOT be kept inside the home or garage. They must remain in the coop or run at all times. Additionally, chickens must be secured inside the coop from sunset to sunrise each day to prevent noise and to avoid attracting predators.

5. Can I have a rooster and breed chickens?

Roosters and breeding of chickens are NOT allowed.

6. Can I build the coop or run on my property line or next to the street?

No. The coop must be situated closer to the chicken owner's dwelling than to any of the neighboring dwellings but in no case closer than 5 feet to the lot line. No coops or runs shall be located closer to an abutting street than the principal structure. Additionally, screening from abutting residences and streets in the form of a solid privacy fence of at least 4 feet in height (constructed according to the fence standards) shall be provided for the coop and run.



7. How big can the coop be?

The coop must neither exceed 120 square feet in size nor exceed 6 feet in height.

8. How big can the run be?

The run must neither exceed 20 square feet per bird nor exceed 6 feet in height and must have protected overhead netting to prevent predators.

9. Do I have to provide an outdoor run?

Yes. Chickens must have access to the outdoors.

10. What do I do with chicken feces and discarded feed?

Chicken feces and discarded feed are to be regularly collected and stored in leak-proof containers with tight-fitting covers until they can be properly disposed of. Chicken feed must also be stored in a leak-proof container with a tight-fitting cover.

11. Can I sell the eggs from my chickens?

Owners must comply with all requirements and performance standards for home enterprises in Crystal Zoning Code Section 515.33, Subd. 3b. The MN Dept of Agriculture Dairy and Food Inspection Division manages and enforces the sale of eggs. Contact them at 651-201-6027 for additional information about the selling of chicken eggs.



12. Who do I call if I want to complain about someone's backyard chickens?

Call Animal Control at 763-531-5161.

FINAL THOUGHTS

- **All building, electrical, property maintenance, and zoning requirements must be followed.**
- **Coops and runs must be constructed in a workmanship manner, maintained in good repair, and kept clean and sanitary to deter vermin and objectionable odors. Coops and runs may be constructed with wood and/or woven wire materials to allow chickens to contact the ground.**
- **Chickens must be properly protected from the weather and predators in a winterized coop.**
- **Owners must care for chickens in a humane manner and prevent nuisance conditions. NO slaughtering or cockfighting allowed.**
- **Use common courtesy with respect to your neighbors to make this a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone.**

Be considerate of your neighbors!



WEBSITE RESOURCES

Crystal City Code Section 910 (private kennel licenses and allowing for the keeping of chickens) & Zoning Code Section 515.33, Subd. 3b (home occupations for sale of eggs)
www.crystalmn.gov

University of MN Extension (backyard chicken basics)
www1.extension.umn.edu/food/small-farms/livestock/poultry/backyard-chicken-basics

Chicken Rescue
www.brittonclouse.com/chickenrunrescue

MDA Dairy & Food Inspection Division (sale of eggs)
www.mda.state.mn.us/en/about/divisions/dairyfood.aspx

CONTACTS

City Hall (switchboard)	763-531-1000
Animal Control	763-531-5161
Building Official	763-531-1146
Code Enforcement Specialist	763-531-1143
Electrical Inspector	763-390-9255
Zoning	763-531-1142
MN Dept of Agriculture Dairy & Food Inspection Division (sale of eggs)	651-201-6027

RAISING BACKYARD CHICKENS



CITY of CRYSTAL

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4141 Douglas Dr N
Crystal, MN 55422

Telephone: (763) 531-1000

Facsimile: (763) 531-1188

www.crystalmn.gov

Deaf and hard-of-hearing callers should contact the Minnesota Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 V/TTY or call 711