

Chicken Housing

Brooder for Chicks

Keep chicks in a brooder for the first 3 weeks. Use plywood to make a round pen, 60cm high. It should have:

- >Wood shavings on the floor to keep it dry
- >A jiko in the middle to keep chicks warm
- >Enough feeders and drinkers
- >Enough chick mash and clean water



Image Courtesy: Shamba Shape Up

Size - Each broiler chicken needs a space of 1 square foot. Each layer/kienyeji bird needs a space of 2 square feet. For example if you want to keep 225 layers or kienyeji birds, you will need a house with an area of 450 square feet or a house 30 feet by 15 feet. The same house can accommodate 450 broilers: *If the house is too small, the chickens will get stressed and peck each other.*

Angle from the sun- Build the house with solid walls on the east and west end to stop direct sunlight in the house

Footbath with disinfectants- Put a footbath with disinfectant at the entrance of the huse. Use Ultraxide from Ultravetis or Kupacide from Coopers. Change disinfectant every week.

Ventilation- Chickens need fresh air. Have 4 feet of wire mesh on the north and south sides. Attach curtains made of sacks to the bottom of the mesh, and pull up to close at night or to stop strong winds

Perches - Have 1 inch round poles for birds to rest on.

Floor- A flat hard floor of murrum or concrete is best, with 3-4 inches of wood shavings to keep the house dry.

Cleaning- Clean every week and disinfect the whole house, inside and outside 24 hours before putting new chicks in to stop diseases.

Image Designs



Image courtesy: Shamba Shape Up

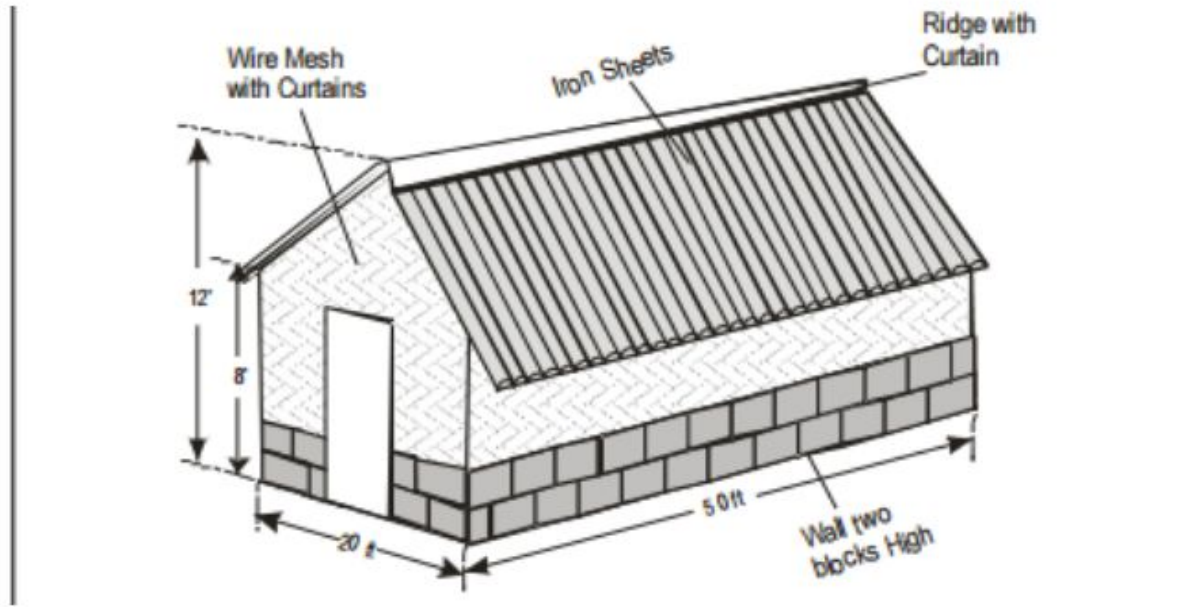


Image Courtesy: Kenchic

Estimate Costs of Construction

Estimate Costs of materials and construction of a 400 bird broiler house 40 by 10 ft

Materials required	Units	QTY	Cost	Total
2m long corrugated iron sheets	No	40	800	32000
Wire netting	roll	1	5000	5000
Ballast	7 tonnes	1	3000	3000
Sand	7 tonnes	7	9000	9000
cement	bags	7	900	6300
Rails	feet	400	30	12000
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Cedar posts	no	30	200	6000
Off-cuts	pieces	150	120	18000
Woodshavings	load	1	1000	1000
Labour cost@30% cost of building materials				31290
Total				135,590

Please note that the costs could be much lower if you use locally available materials like bricks, stones etc. However, it's good to keep a larger flock if you need more profits. You can also lower costs by using rough cement. For the above costs, this is a standard house.