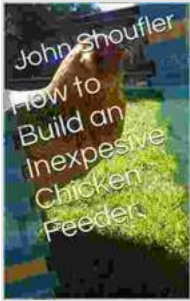


How to Build an Inexpensive Chicken Feeder: A Comprehensive Guide to Save Money and Improve Your Flock's Health



How to Build an Inexpensive Chicken Feeder.

by Gonzalo Sanabria

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

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For backyard chicken owners, providing your feathered friends with a reliable and cost-effective chicken feeder is crucial for their well-being and efficient egg production. Building your own chicken feeder offers a budget-friendly and customizable solution. This comprehensive guide will walk you through every step of the process, empowering you to build a practical and inexpensive feeder that meets your specific requirements.

Benefits of Building Your Own Chicken Feeder

- **Cost savings:** Constructing your own chicken feeder significantly reduces the expense compared to purchasing a pre-made one.
- **Customization:** You can tailor the feeder's design to accommodate the size and number of your flock, ensuring optimal feed accessibility.

- **Durability:** By selecting appropriate materials and employing proper construction techniques, you can create a durable feeder that will withstand the rigors of outdoor use.
- **Improved sanitation:** A well-designed feeder minimizes feed contamination and spillage, promoting the health and hygiene of your chickens.
- **Convenience:** Having a custom-built feeder within easy reach makes feeding your chickens a hassle-free task.

Types of Chicken Feeders

Before embarking on the construction process, familiarizing yourself with the different types of chicken feeders available can help you choose the most suitable design for your needs:

1. Trough Feeder:

- A long, narrow container that holds feed along its length.
- Provides easy access for multiple chickens simultaneously.
- Requires regular monitoring to ensure even distribution of feed.

2. Hopper Feeder:

- A tall, funnel-shaped container that dispenses feed into a trough as needed.
- Reduces feed waste and spoilage, as the chickens only access the amount they require.
- Can be more expensive and complex to construct.

3. Tube Feeder:

- A cylindrical container with small holes punched along its sides, allowing chickens to peck at the feed.
- Prevents feed from spilling out and minimizes contamination.
- Suitable for small flocks and individual feeding.

4. Hanging Feeder:

- A feeder suspended from the ceiling or a tree branch.
- Keeps feed off the ground, reducing the risk of contamination and attracting pests.
- Requires additional materials for suspension and may not be suitable for large flocks.

Materials Required for Building a Trough Feeder

1. Wood: Pressure-treated lumber is recommended for its durability and resistance to moisture. **2. Screws or Nails:** To secure the wooden components together. **3. PVC Pipe:** To create a lip around the edges of the feeder, preventing feed from spilling out. **4. Angle Brackets:** To reinforce the corners of the feeder, ensuring stability and longevity. **5. Wood Filler:** To seal any gaps or cracks in the wood, preventing moisture penetration.

Step-by-Step Instructions for Building a Trough Feeder

Step 1: Cut the Wood:

- Cut two pieces of wood for the sides (e.g., 12 inches long and 6 inches wide).
- Cut two pieces of wood for the ends (e.g., 6 inches long and 6 inches wide).

Step 2: Assemble the Frame:

- Place the side pieces parallel to each other, spacing them according to the desired width of the feeder (e.g., 4 inches apart).
- Attach the end pieces to the side pieces using screws or nails, forming a rectangular frame.

Step 3: Create the Lip:

- Cut a length of PVC pipe to fit around the perimeter of the frame.
- Secure the PVC pipe to the top edge of the frame using wood screws.

Step 4: Install Angle Brackets:

- Attach angle brackets to the inside corners of the feeder for added strength and support.

Step 5: Seal the Feeder:

- Apply wood filler to any gaps or cracks in the wood.
- Allow the wood filler to dry completely before using the feeder.

Tips for Maintaining Your Chicken Feeder

- **Regular Cleaning:** Clean the feeder regularly to remove any feed residue, debris, or pests.
- **Check for Damage:** Inspect the feeder periodically for any damage, such as cracks or loose screws, and repair as necessary.
- **Adjust Feed Levels:** Monitor the feed levels and adjust them as needed to ensure an adequate supply without overfilling.
- **Protect from Weather:** If the feeder is not sheltered, consider covering it with a tarp or placing it under a tree for protection from rain and direct sunlight.

Building your own chicken feeder is a rewarding project that can significantly benefit your flock and save you money. By following the comprehensive guide provided in this article, you can construct a practical and durable feeder that meets your specific requirements. Remember to maintain your feeder regularly to ensure the well-being and productivity of your chickens. With a little planning and effort, you can provide your feathered friends with an optimal feeding environment, contributing to their health and happiness.

Alt attribute for image: A photograph depicting an inexpensive chicken feeder made from wood and PVC, designed to prevent feed waste and facilitate easy access for chickens.

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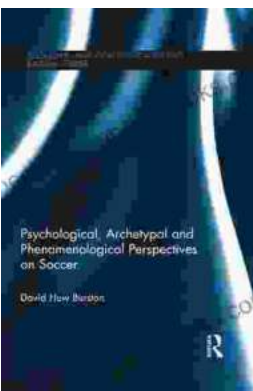


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