

PREPARING YOUR FENCING, PASTURE AND SHELTER FOR DUCKS

SHELTER:

Birds should have a shelter with adequate space for moving, sleeping and eating. In colder months, birds may also require space in their barn for a heat lamp.

All four sides, the roof and door of the shelter should be made of a solid material (wood, resin, plastic, etc) to protect them from both predators and weather.

Bedding (white shavings, pelleted bedding, sand, etc) should cover the floor of the coop to keep the floor clean and dry. Birds such as ducks and geese prefer to sleep on the floor and shavings will create a comfortable space for this.



FENCING:

Birds need a fully-fenced run (preferably with a roof—though that is not required) that is large enough to give each bird their own space, if they desire.

Fencing should be constructed so the birds cannot get under, over or through. If the fence has large chain links or squares, chicken wire should be placed over it so that the bird cannot escape through the holes. Most birds have some ability to fly, so the fence must be tall enough to keep them from leaving the yard.



PASTURE:

Grassy pastures are ideal and will allow the ducks to forage for snacks - a great enrichment tool.

Waterfowl require access to a pond at all times. The pond doesn't have to be fancy and can be something as simple as a baby pool! Pond water should be changed regularly so that there is not a build up of dirt and algae.

A standard backyard is plenty of space for a small flock. If housed in a yard with no roof, birds should have adequate tree and shrub cover to hide from predators and for shelter from the sun in warm weather. Man-made features like teepees also work well.