

HAPPY

winter hens

Chickens, much like us, prefer to snuggle up indoors during the cold wintery months. This means it's the most important time of year to keep up regular maintenance of their coop, so they stay protected from the elements.



Winter coop maintenance checklist:

- Check for leaks or holes in the structure
- Maintain adequate ventilation but no direct wind channels
- Make sure there's plenty of good, clean, fresh bedding material
- Keep the coop clean and as dry as possible - wet litter build-up can cause elevated ammonia levels
- Ensure drinkers are in good order and off the floor
- Reduce mud around the coop and in high traffic areas - you can throw down some woodchips as a temporary solution

Watch out for any of these signs - these likely mean your coop is damaged:

- Constantly wet or muddy feet
- Pecking or bullying - chickens will behave badly when they feel unsafe or when they have to compete for resources like food, water or nesting space
- A smelly coop - especially a sharp ammonia smell
- Persistent muddy areas, particularly around entry/exit points