

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT INFORMATIONAL PUBLICATION



Backyard Chickens

As of March 1, 2024, the Village of Shorewood allows the keeping of backyard chickens, subject to certain restrictions and permitting requirements. The permit process requires the submission of a completed application along with payment (\$100 initial / \$50 renewals). Applicants must also submit a scaled dimensional drawing, showing all property lines and structures on the subject, adjoining and diagonally abutting properties together with the proposed chicken coop and yard to the satisfaction of the Planning & Development Department. Upon the issuance of the permit and the installation of the chicken coop, the applicant shall submit to an inspection to demonstrate that all applicable requirements are met.

Before a new permit may be issued, applicants shall furnish to the Village written proof that all residents of adjoining or diagonally abutting properties, including those across an alley, have been notified and have been informed that any written objections shall be submitted to the Planning & Development Department within 14 days of receipt. This proof can be in the form of certified letters or a completed Village of Shorewood chicken keeping neighbor notification form.

General Regulations

The keeping of up to four chickens on a residential parcel with a valid permit is allowed

Neighborhood notification is required

No roosters shall be kept

Chicken eggs may not be sold

No chicken coop shall be located in the front yard or street side yard

No chicken shall be slaughtered

Planning & Development
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Applications available at: www.villageofshorewood.org

NOTE: This informational sheet is NOT intended to answer all questions relating to the keeping of chickens. Please call with any additional questions.

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Care for the chickens:

Chickens shall be provided with fresh water at all times and adequate amounts of feed. All additional food supplies shall be kept in closed containers.

Chickens shall be kept in the chicken coop or a sanitary and adequately-sized and accessible fenced enclosure or yard at all times.

Any person keeping chickens shall immediately report any unusual illness or death of chickens to the Health Department.

Coops and yards shall be constructed and maintained to prevent the collection of standing water, and shall be cleaned of droppings, uneaten feed, feathers and waste daily.

Coop location and design:

A chicken coop may not be located closer than 25 feet to any residential structure on an adjoining or diagonally abutting lot, unless consent is given by the owner of that lot.

The chicken coop shall provide at least 4 sq. ft. per chicken. Coops and yards together shall be large enough to provide at least 16 square feet per chicken.

Chicken coops shall be constructed in a workmanlike manner, be moisture-resistant and either raised up off the ground or placed on a hard surface such as concrete, patio block or gravel.

Chicken coops may not be located in the front yard or street side yard of a property.

Safety Considerations:

Heat Lamps: Chickens can get rowdy and knock lamps down, clamps can become loose, and lamps placed too close to flammable material such as bedding is a potential hazard, for that reason the use is discouraged.

Extension Cords: The unsafe use of extension cords can be very dangerous. Overloading a cord or leaving them exposed to the elements is a recipe for disaster. Extension cords are intended to be used temporarily, and not left in use unsupervised.

Flammable Bedding: Straw and/or pine shavings are great options for bedding but they are highly flammable. It is essential to manage them responsibly to minimize hazards.

Heated Waterers: These are great tools during the winter months and save time and energy breaking ice on frigid mornings. Any time electricity is a factor, it presents a potential hazard; GFCI protection is required for all outdoor electrical applications.

Additional Resources:

www.Mypetchicken.com

www.Backyardchickens.com

www.cdc.gov/healthypets/pets/farm-animals/backyard-poultry.html