



## ADOPTING CHICKS

Henny Penny Hatching asks any families considering adopting chicks, particularly those who have limited experience in keeping and raising chickens, to read and consider the following before they take chicks home:

- Do your local council regulations allow you to keep poultry on your property?
- Will your backyard be suitable when the chicks grow into adult chickens?
- Remember that 50% of the chicks will be roosters. Are you able to, and prepared to, keep roosters on your property?
- Will your chickens co-exist happily with any pets you may already have?
- Will your neighbours mind having chickens living next door?
- Who will look after your chickens when you go on holiday?
- Chickens will produce eggs for 2-3 years but they can live for 10 years and more. Are you prepared to look after them for their entire lifespan?
- Click on [Gardening Australia](#) for more information regarding keeping chickens as pets.
- Chickens are flock birds. You will need to take 2 or more chicks home in order for them to be naturally content. Are you prepared to keep 2 or more adult chickens?



When you take your chicks home you will need to provide a suitable brooding area, a small drinker, a feeder, and a desk lamp, which you can suspend over the area for warmth. However, when the chicks develop their feathers, at about 8 weeks, they will need to be housed outside. You should gradually reduce the heat source in the weeks leading up to this. Once you have moved your chickens outside, they will need shelter, nesting boxes with straw or shavings, and perches (which can be made from tree branches). There are a number of excellent coops on the market. Some of these can even be moved around the backyard (see [Useful Information](#)).