



WHAT YOU NEED WITH YOU

- ▶ Quick Permit Application (providing the application for both the required license and building permit).
- ▶ Permit fee. Please refer to the building permit fee chart.
- ▶ Plat of survey showing the locations, dimensions, and set backs of all existing and proposed improvements.
- ▶ Drawings that detail and dimension how the coop will be constructed and/or installed.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

- ▶ Coop: An accessory structure < 50 square feet that protects chickens from weather and predators.
- ▶ Pen: An enclosure for chickens < 100 square feet that allows freedom of movement and prevents escape.
- ▶ **A license is required prior to keeping chickens, and a permit is required prior to constructing a coop and pen.**
- ▶ Chickens shall be confined in a pen, coop, building, or other enclosure at all times, and no chicken shall be kept inside a residence, except baby chicks less than 8 weeks old.
- ▶ Many subdivisions have private covenants and restrictions which supersede City zoning requirements. The City does not enforce covenants and restrictions. It is recommended that property owner's check with the homeowner's association prior to considering keeping chickens.
- ▶ If the property is located in the Historic District, a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) is required.
- ▶ A final inspection is required upon completion of the work. Contact the City to schedule the inspection.
- ▶ A license and permit for keeping chickens shall not be transferable or run with the land and shall terminate and become invalid upon the permit holder no longer occupying the property.
- ▶ Complete license and permit requirements are provided within Chapter 7.08 of the Elgin Municipal Code.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Location:

- a) Allowed only at single-family homes zoned residentially.
- b) Must be located within a rear yard, 25 feet from the owner's house, 6 feet from all property lines, and not visible from a street.

(Continued on next page)



REQUIREMENTS (CONTINUED)

2. Construction:

- a) Wall framing must consist of 2" x 3" studs at 16" on center. Floor and roof framing must consist of 2" x 3" joists and rafters at 24" on center.
- b) Wall sheathing must be 3/8" thick, roof sheathing 3/8", floor sheathing 5/8".
- c) Pre-fabricated coops may be allowed, subject to review of the building specifications submitted with the Quick Permit Application.
- d) Coops must be placed either above ground or on a hard surface such as concrete, patio block or gravel and able to withstand natural forces such as wind, rain and snow. Wooden or precast concrete posts shall be acceptable foundations if they are placed at least 24" into the ground and firmly tamped with dirt or gravel. Wooden or precast concrete posts may also be secured using concrete footings that are otherwise typically used for fencing or decks.
- e) Wood in contact with the ground must be pressure treated or decay-resistant.

3. Miscellaneous:

- a) Coops may not be installed within an easement.
- b) Any structure housing hens that is not fully enclosed shall be screened with a 6-foot fence or wall. Said fence or wall is subject to zoning requirements regarding fences and walls.