

*Dorset Hens Houses are extra special  
because they work and look good,  
all at a reasonable price.*

**You will see loads of cheap imported hen houses on the market and loads of very expensive hen houses so why go for ours?**

**We have designed and built hens houses from 4 birds to 4,000 bird houses and have kept chicken in all of them ourselves so we know what works for what number of hens and have been one of the top producers and are now one of the top poultry breeders for back yard flocks.**

**Back garden hens need a far superior design with the emphasis on the right size and style to keep them healthy and happy and producing lots of eggs. Your hens will be living a natural life with natural daylight and so the housing becomes an essential part keeping the hens.**

**Most manufacturers only look at the square footage of ground floor space available and forget that although we like a taller house for us to be able to walk in the hens still have to keep that warm in winter and invariably the hens become too cold and eat a lot more for warmth and become unhappy the same as us when too cold.**

**The quality (thickness) of the house is also an important point to consider not only will a decent house provide good insulation but will last for a lot longer and be more stable. Most cheap hen houses have small 1" to 2" hinges and bolts which break extremely quickly as not large enough for the job and does not take a lot to break off.**

**The thinner the wood and the smaller the hinges & bolts the easier for a fox and/or badger to get in and the shorter the life of the building which will not last as long as the hens.**

**Houses which have windows are actually quite detrimental to a hen; it is our assumption to try and make them like mini human houses in which case please make them curtains and keep the light out. When it is light at 4/5am in the morning and light is flooding through the window the hens will wake up and increase its day length to unacceptable proportions where it is not getting enough sleep to keep healthy and where the food and water is outside only adds stress to the hen.**

**Also as another product of waking up early is that a chicken likes to pooh first thing and if you have it shut up the more it goes inside! This is okay for a normal house but anything with a muck draw useless as they are only normally 1" in depth which caters for the bedding and anything on top will fall below when trying to remove it leaving you to try and crawl under the house to clean up. A muck draw which is the length of the house is awkward to handle as quite flimsy and will rot fast as chicken pooh is acidic.**

Roofing felt is fine for a hen house it is the design of the roof which is more important, you need to have full visibility of the roof and house that way cleaning out is thorough and quick and if any treatment for red mite is required it can be administered quickly and efficiently knowing that if you see all of the house you can treat all of the house. Houses with small doorways mean that if you cannot see it you cannot treat it.

1. A hen house should be able to keep the hens insulated from hot and cold with plenty of provision to alter the ventilation from front to back (air needs to pass through the house) respiratory diseases are the most common illness in hens through lack of adequate ventilation.
2. To be kept as dark as possible when asleep. To be strong and stable enough to prevent high winds blowing it over and animals from easily entering – a badger is a strong animal and can rip the back out of a hen house.
3. To provide the hen with a dark nest box not opposite the doorway as a hen likes to be able to lay her egg in a nest situation. You also reduce problems with vent pecking when darker from other hens.
4. To be easily cleaned and treated and all areas visible.
5. That does not contain windows or allow a lot of light through the ventilation area.
6. That the nest boxes can be altered to allow the eggs to roll away to the back so that it not as easy for them to sit on and go broody and that the material for the nest box can be easily changed to an astro turf style which again will help to stop the hens from building a nest for her to go broody on. A broody hen is not a happy hen and if not broken from being broody will lose condition fast.
7. A house that you like the look of and that works!!!