

PREDATOR PROOFING CHECKLIST

Find the weak spots before a predator does.



HenFolk™



Simple ways to keep your flock safe, day and night.

Hello there!

A secure coop means peaceful sleep for you and your chickens!

Predators are clever, strong, and persistent, but with the right setup, you can protect your flock from harm. Use this checklist to make sure every corner of your coop and run is safe, sturdy, and predator-proof.

PREDATOR PROOFING CHECKLIST



COOP SECURITY

Focus: Reinforce the structure where your chickens sleep.

- ◯ Use ½-inch hardware cloth, not chicken wire; predators can tear through chicken wire easily.
- ◯ Attach hardware cloth with heavy-duty staples or screws and washers.
- ◯ Bury wire 12 inches deep around the coop perimeter to stop diggers (foxes, dogs, raccoons).
- ◯ Cover all vents and openings with hardware cloth; even small gaps invite snakes or rats.
- ◯ Ensure solid doors and latches, as raccoons can open simple hook latches, so use carabiners or locking hasps.
- ◯ Add a secure floor or apron if your coop sits directly on dirt.
- ◯ Close nesting box lids tightly at night.
- ◯ Check for loose boards, weak corners, or gaps monthly.

RUN SECURITY

Focus: Keep daytime predators out of the chicken yard.

- ◯ Use hardware cloth or welded wire for all run walls and the roof.
- ◯ Cover the top of the run to prevent hawk and owl attacks.
- ◯ Bury or “skirt” wire 12 inches outward around the entire run to deter digging.
- ◯ Add secure latches on run gates and doors.
- ◯ If free-ranging, use supervised time only or portable fencing with electric netting for safety.
- ◯ Check the perimeter after storms or heavy snow as predators will exploit weak spots.

NIGHTTIME PROTECTION

Focus: Lock up tight before dusk.

- ◯ Do a nightly head count to make sure everyone's inside.
- ◯ Close doors with secure locks.
- ◯ Use solar lights or motion-activated lights near the coop to deter visitors.
- ◯ Consider a coop camera or trail cam for nighttime monitoring.
- ◯ Use automatic coop doors for peace of mind if you can't always be home by dark.

SIGNS OF PREDATOR ACTIVITY

Focus: Observation is key

- ◯ Tracks or digging around the coop
- ◯ Missing or disturbed feathers
- ◯ Knocked-over feeders or waterers
- ◯ Unusual flock behavior (nervous, won't leave coop)
- ◯ Sounds of distress or nighttime noise

> If you spot signs of predators, reinforce your coop immediately. Predators often return once they've found a food source.

Don't wait until you've had a predator problem to make upgrades; prevention is everything.

Your flock depends on you for safety, and a few small improvements can make a world of difference.