

How to choose a waterer

Field-tested designs for all poultry species

WATERER TIPS

- Keep the waterer level. This enables the internal float (if applicable) to work properly—and prevents water overflowing onto the floor or soil.
- Clean the waterer often. Hard water deposits or algae may block valves.
- Place waterers above ground level on concrete blocks, a Chick Tray or Chick Stand (*at right*). Birds are less likely to foul the water when scratching near it.
- Change the waterer's location often to prevent mud holes forming.
- Do not place waterers in the sun—a shaded location reduces the amount of evaporation and keeps the water cool.



Optimum waterer capacity is dependent on:

- Number and size of birds.
- How often you prefer to water them.

Choose a waterer that will provide enough clean water for the birds between your visits to the coop.

For chicks use a small waterer with a drown-proof or narrow base.

For waterfowl use a waterer with a wide base so they can fit their bills into it. They also like to splash their water. You'll need more capacity to accommodate this behavior.

If you have only a few birds or visit frequently, you can manage with a smaller waterer. If you have many birds, you need a larger one, especially during hot days.

A bird's daily water intake?

A medium-size adult chicken will drink about 0.08 gal (just over a cup) on a hot day. Temperature, size and age of the bird and amount of salt in the feed will cause this figure to vary.

Note: Some users strongly prefer one style of waterer over another. Check out the reviews on our website to see what others think—and why.

Waterer Comparison Chart

Name	Capacity	Suited for	No. of birds	Waterfowl
Abbey Cage Cup	3/4 cup	adults	1	yes
Jar, Drown-Proof Base	20 oz	chicks/quail	10-20/40	no
Chick Nipple Drinker	1 liter	chicks/adults	10-20	no
Pop Bottle Bases	n/a	chicks	10-20	no
Classic Waterer	0.4 gal	chicks	15	yes
Pigeon Drinker	1.32 gal	adults	18	no
Top Fill Fountain	1.5 gal	adults	18	yes
Heated Waterer	3 gal	adults	35	yes
Imperial Tri-Pod	2.5 gal	adults	30	yes
Bucket Nipple Waterer	3 gal	adults	35	yes
QuickClean	3 gal	adults	35	yes
Top Fill Fountain	3 gal	adults	35	yes
Drinking Cup	continuous	adults	12	no
QuickClean	5 gal	adults	60	yes
Imperial Tri-Pod	5 gal	adults	60	yes
Imperial Tri-Pod	7.5 gal	adults	90	yes
Tri-Pod	8 gal	adults	100	yes
Kubic	8 gal	adults	100	yes
Kubic	10.5 gal	adults	125	yes
Kubic	13 gal	adults	150	yes
No-Mess Auto Drinker	continuous	adults	over 100	yes
Kane	continuous	adults	over 100	yes