

CHICKENS

No permit is required to raise and keep backyard chickens on a non-commercial basis at a residential property in Doylestown Township, but you must follow the requirements of Township Code Section 175-H-11 (d). You can access the Twp. Code from the Doylestown Township website/information/Twp. Code

1. The property must be a minimum of 40,000sq ft to be able to keep chickens.
2. 5 chickens are permitted for the first acre, and one additional chicken is permitted for each additional ¼ acre.
3. No rooster is permitted on lots less than 5 acres. **NOTE:** A rooster is not required for chickens to lay eggs.
4. Any chicken coop, hen house, pen or fenced in run is to be a minimum of 50 feet from the rear or side property line. All structures associated with keeping the chickens are to be in the rear yard.
5. No facility for storing feed or manure shall be closer than 75 feet to any property line.
6. The exterior areas of henhouses or chicken coops shall not be illuminated.
7. A written waste storage and removal plan shall be submitted to the Township and kept on file.
8. Chickens are not to be allowed to become free range; they are not permitted to cross into neighboring yards.

If you are interested in keeping backyard chickens, we recommend that you contact Delaware Valley University, 700 East Butler Avenue, Doylestown, PA 18901, as they periodically hold Backyard Chicken keeping classes for those wishing to enter this hobby.

We also recommend that you follow the guidance offered by the Penn State Extension Service. The Bucks County Office is located at Middletown Grange Fairgrounds, 576 Penns Park Road, Suite EXT, Newtown, PA 18940.