



Day-old Chicks: Transport in the boxes at 75°F/24°C and DO NOT put them in direct sunlight or cool drafts.

- Temperature 92°F/33°C at level of chicks (2 in/5 cm) from the top of the bedding.
- A thermometer is a MUST! A hi/lo thermometer is best.
- 3 to 4 in/8 to 10 cm of bedding (preferably shavings).
- You can put a sheet of styrofoam under the shavings.
- No drafts in the brooding area (18 in/46 cm high guard should be used to stop drafts). Keep brooding area "rounded" so chicks don't crowd into a corner and smother. Enlarge brooding area as they grow and temperatures are lowered.
- Lower temperature 4°F/2°C per week until six weeks old.
- Keep shavings dry (clean up water spills or leaks and replace with dry shavings).
- Keep water and feed very close to chicks.
- Use lukewarm water in drinkers at first and dip the chick's beak in the water when you take them out of the box.

Turkeys and Pheasants:

Same as above EXCEPT

- Temperature at their level 95-99°F/35-37°C.
- Put a cloth, towel or coarse permeable covering on top of the shavings in the brooding area and scatter feed all over it. (This will allow them to learn what feed is more easily and prevent them from slipping and causing irreversible leg damage.)
- Remove the cloth after a day or two or if it gets too damp or wet.
- Always have lots of feed trays and drinkers very close to the turkeys.

Started Birds:

- Transport them at 70°F/21°C if warmer than 21°C, then you can have air blowing around the boxes. When it is over 25°C then air can blow directly over the birds.
- Get them to their pen and water/feed as soon as possible after delivery to the feed store.
- Remember that the started birds will be unfamiliar to their surroundings and bedding/litter, therefore they will need time to settle in and move about naturally. Watch that they do not crowd into a corner and they are getting to feed and water.

Ready-to-lays:

- Ready to lay can handle lower temperatures during transit but do not let them get overheated...keep air moving around them if it is a warm day.
- Pullets have been on 12 hours of light per day when you receive them. Increase ½ to 1 hour per week in the morning until you reach 16 hours of light per day. Total hours of light per day and proper nutrition (no scratch or "green scraps") will bring the pullets into lay. Greens and scratch may be given at a later age, however, if birds have access to these feed sources we recommend a vitamin supplement in the water to prevent a nutritional deficiency.
- If you plan to allow your pullets access to the outdoors, consider putting a "wormer" medication in the water (1 or 2 application days – available from your feed supplier).