

Requirements of Section 500-2412 – Keeping of Chickens

Chickens for personal use are permitted in the **RA-1, RA-2, RA-3, R1, and R2** zoning districts.

- A. No person may keep any chicken for personal use on a lot with an existing single family residence without first obtaining a permit.
- B. A minimum lot size of 5,000 square feet is required.
- C. A maximum of 4 chickens shall be kept. An additional chicken is allowed for every additional 5,000 square feet of lot area beyond the required minimum lot size of 5,000 square feet.
- D. The keeping of roosters is prohibited.
- E. Non-Commercial Use. The displaying, selling, offering for sale, bartering or giving away chickens, chicks, eggs, or manure from the property is prohibited.
- F. It shall be unlawful for the owner or owners of any chickens to allow their chickens to run at large upon adjoining properties, any of the common thoroughfares, sidewalks, passageways, play areas, parks, streets, alleys, or public or private highways or any place where people congregate or walk, or upon public or private property in Middletown Township.
- G. Location. Chickens must be confined at all times to a chicken coop or chicken run in compliance with the following:
 - (1) Only one (1) chicken coop and one (1) chicken run shall be permitted on a property.
 - (2) Chicken coops and chicken runs shall be located in rear or side yards only.
 - (3) The chicken coops and chicken runs cannot be less than 15 feet from all property lines.
 - (4) The maximum permitted height of chicken coops and chicken runs is 8 feet.
 - (5) Chicken coops and runs shall not exceed 50 square feet. Chicken coops and runs must provide not less than 4 square feet for each chicken kept on the property.
- H. Adequate food, shelter, water, and care shall be provided to all chickens at all time.
- I. Sanitary Requirements for Housing of Chickens. All chickens, chicken coops and chicken runs must be maintained, housed and kept in a clean and sanitary condition and in a manner that does not cause a public or private nuisance from: odor, litter, droppings, feathers or other waste; excessive noise; predators, pests, rodents or other animals; or, favorable conditions that breed or attract flies, mosquitoes, maggots, other insects, pests or rodents. Any owner of chickens within the limits of the Municipality shall be required to house the chickens at all times under sanitary conditions so that the keeping of chickens shall not become either a public or private nuisance. The following provisions apply:
 - (1) All chicken feces accumulated on private property shall be removed by using the

approved sanitary method of double bagging and placed in the trash for collection unless composted.

(2) Chicken feces on private property shall not be allowed to accumulate to the degree that it becomes a public health nuisance or hazard. In cases where chicken feces does accumulate on private property, an Enforcement Officer and/or other designated official representing Middletown Township may conduct an investigation, after which the accumulation may be declared a public health hazard or nuisance and the owner shall be ordered to remove and dispose of the accumulated feces in an approved manner. The order to remove such accumulated feces shall be hand-delivered to the owner or shall be sent by certified mail. The owner shall be given a period of 48 hours from the date and time of receipt of the order to clean the property and remove the accumulated feces.

- J. All feed, water, and other items associated with the keeping of chickens must be kept in rodentproof, water-proof containers and protected in a way that prevents infestation by rats, mice, other rodents or vectors. Failure to keep all feed, water, and other items associated with the keeping of chickens in a clean and sanitary condition constitutes a violation.
- K. Watering troughs, tanks or other watering containers shall be equipped with adequate facilities for draining water overflow to prevent the breeding of flies, mosquitoes and other insects.
- L. Slaughtering or Butchering. Slaughtering or butchering for personal consumption or religious practices shall be permitted provided it is done wholly indoors in the dwelling on the property where the chickens are kept and any waste is disposed of in a proper and sanitary way. Any processing of deceased chickens shall not occur in any area visible from public rights-of-way or from adjacent properties. Slaughtering or butchering for commercial use is prohibited.
- M. Composting. It shall be unlawful for any person to spread or cause to be spread or deposited upon any ground or premises within Middletown Township any chicken manure. However, chicken manure may be composted on the property where the chickens are housed and the composted material then applied to gardens or yards.