Planning & Community Development

17500 Midvale Avenue North
Shoreline, WA 98133-4905
206-801-2500 [phone]
206-801-2788 [fax]
pcd@shorelinewa.gov
www.shorelinewa.gov

Chickens

Keeping chickens is becoming increasingly popular in urban areas. This flyer is provided to answer the most common questions related to backyard chickens in Shoreline.

Q. How many chickens can I have?
A. Six hens may be kept on a typical single-family lot. On lots of at least ½ acre, 12 hens may be kept at a rate of 12 per ½ acre.

Q. Can I have a rooster?
A. No. Roosters are banned in Shoreline, effective October 29, 2013.

Q. Where can I keep my chickens?
A. They must be contained on your property, which must be kept in a neat and sanitary manner.

Q. What kind of coop do I need?
A. As with any animal, for happy and healthy chickens, provide plenty of air circulation and room to wander inside enclosures. Be sure your enclosure protects your chickens from cats, dogs, and raccoons. There are many good books and online resourses on raising backyard chickens with attractive designs for chicken houses.

Q. What if my neighbors' chicken coop is too smelly?
A. Talk to your neighbor about controlling odor by keeping their chicken coop clean. The only time chickens will smell bad is if they are sick or their coop is not cleaned often enough. The Planning & Community Development Director can determine the presence of a public nuisance.

For complaints please call City of Shoreline Customer Response Team at (206) 801-2700.

Permit Processing Hours:
Monday to Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Business Hours:
Monday to Friday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Note: this handout is for informational use only and is not to be substituted for the Shoreline Municipal Code