

Village of Elmwood

Backyard Chicken Ownership in Wisconsin

Know the Rules. Protect Your Flock. Stay Legal.

Do You Have Chickens?

If you keep chickens or other poultry in Wisconsin—even just a few hens in your backyard—you must comply with both Wisconsin state law and Village of Elmwood ordinances.

Wisconsin State Law Requires Premises Registration

Wisconsin law (Wis. Stat. § 95.51 and Wis. Admin. Code ATPC 17) requires all poultry owners to register their property with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

What Is Premises Registration?

Premises registration identifies where animals are kept and helps state officials quickly respond to disease outbreaks such as avian influenza, protecting poultry owners and the public food supply.

What Happens If I Don't Register?

- You are in violation of state law.
- You may be subject to fines.
- You may be unable to exhibit poultry at fairs or shows.
- You may be excluded from certain state assistance programs during disease outbreaks.

How to Register

- **Cost:** Free
 - **Phone:** (888) 808-1910
 - **Website:** [Wisconsin DATCP Premises Registration](#)
 - **Registration Term:** Valid for three years
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1. Number of Chickens Allowed

- A maximum of **six (6) hens** is permitted per residential property.
- **Roosters are prohibited** due to noise concerns.

2. State Premises Registration

- All residents must provide proof of valid Wisconsin premises registration with their permit application.

3. Village Permit Requirement

- A Village permit must be obtained **before** keeping hens.
- Permit applications must include:
 - Proof of state premises registration
 - Site plan showing the location of the coop and run
 - \$25 Application Fee
 - Description and design of the coop
- Permits are subject to annual renewal and inspection.

4. Coop and Run Regulations

- **Coop Size:** Minimum of 4 square feet per hen (24 square feet total for six hens)
- **Run Size:** Minimum of 8 square feet per hen (48 square feet total for six hens)
- **Location:** Coops and runs must be located in the rear yard only.
- **Setbacks:** Must comply with all applicable accessory structure setback requirements under the Village Zoning Ordinance – 8 ft from side property lines, 6 ft from rear property lines, and 6 ft from house
- **Nesting Boxes:** One nesting box for every 3–4 hens
- **Roosting Space:** 8–12 inches per hen
- **Ventilation and Drainage:** Coops must be well-ventilated and designed to prevent standing water.

5. Sanitation and Maintenance

- Coops and runs must be kept clean, dry, and free of offensive odors.
- Waste must be removed regularly and disposed of properly.
- Feed must be stored in sealed, rodent-resistant containers.

6. Enforcement

- The Village reserves the right to inspect properties for compliance.
- Violations may result in fines, permit revocation, or removal of hens.

Questions?

Please contact the Village Office for additional information regarding permits and ordinance requirements.

Village of Elmwood
323 W. Winter Avenue
P.O. Box 97
Elmwood, WI 54740

Phone: (715) 639-3792

Email: clerk@vi.elmwood.wi.gov

I have read and understand this agreement. By signing below, I acknowledge that my Chicken Coop will comply with all Village of Elmwood ordinances. I understand that I am responsible for ensuring compliance and may be held liable for any violations.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Chicken Coop Application and Site Plan

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____
hens: _____

Number of

Email: _____

1. Total square feet of coop and enclosure _____ (sqft.) Coop alone _____ (sqft.)
2. Distance of enclosure to nearest habitable structure on adjoining properties
3. Use the area below to sketch site plan. Include distances from lot lines, structures (garage/shed), fences, barriers, pools, and any other semi-permanent items in your yard.
4. Identify neighbors whose property line connects to your property including diagonals as well as any neighbor across the alley but not across the street.

Issue Date: _____