



**Swatara Township**  
599 Eisenhower Boulevard  
Harrisburg, PA 17111-2397  
[www.swataratwp.com](http://www.swataratwp.com)

**Building & Codes Department**  
Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM  
Phone: 717-564-2551 Fax: 717-564-5895  
Email: [directorofpz@swataratwp.com](mailto:directorofpz@swataratwp.com)

**Permit Instructions:**

- All applications must be completed in full along with the owner’s signature. Incomplete applications will result in denial or delayed processing. The current permit fee is \$50.00. Payment may be made by cash, check, or credit card.
- All applications must include a schematic drawing (site plan) of the premises showing: 1) The location or potential location of the coop; 2) The size of the coop; 3) Distances between the coop and the side and rear lot lines; 4) The location and size of a chicken run; 5) Distances between the run and the side and rear lot lines and 6) The location, style, and height of any other fencing located on the premises.

**The following requirements shall apply to the keeping of chickens as defined in Township Code §104-15.:**

1. Coops and runs must be placed in a rear yard of at least 200 square feet.
2. The coop and run must be maintained in an orderly and sanitary condition and kept in good repair.
3. Coops and runs must be kept at least 15’ from any lot line and 30’ from any occupied residential structure.
4. There must be at least 3 square feet per space per chicken inside the coop and at least 5 square feet of space per chicken inside the run.
5. Occupants who are not the owners of record of the lot or property must submit written permission from the owner specifically stating that the keeping of chickens on their property is permitted.
6. The owner of the lot does not allow the keeping of more chickens than prescribed in Township Code §295-96.D.(11):

<b>Minimum Lot Area (Acres / Square Feet)</b>	<b>Maximum Number of Hens Permitted</b>
0.20 to 0.50 / 8,712 – 21,780	6
0.51 to 5.0 / 21,781 – 217,800	12
5.0 + / 217,801+	24

7. Public slaughter is prohibited. Slaughter is allowed when conducted in the chicken owner’s residence and all excess viscera is disposed of in a sanitary way. Commercial slaughter is prohibited.
8. The sale of chickens or eggs for commercial purposes is prohibited.
9. All chicken-related materials and feed shall be stored in sealed, rodent-proof containers to prevent vermin and any nuisance to surrounding neighbors.
10. All keeping of chickens must comply with the minimum standards of animal care as required by Pennsylvania law, Pa. Code Title 18, regarding animal cruelty provisions.
11. Coops shall be ventilated to avoid respiratory disease and infections, control ambient temperature, and prevent the accumulation of toxic gases.
12. Coops shall comply with the accessory building height requirements of the zoning district.
13. Chicken coops and runs shall be kept in sanitary conditions and free from unpleasant odors and from conditions contributing to the breeding of flies.
14. Coops and runs shall be cleaned of hen droppings, uneaten food, feathers and other waste on a regular basis and as necessary to ensure they do not become health, odor, or another nuisance.
15. The disposal of dead chickens shall be in accordance with the Domestic Animal Law, 3 Pa. C.S. Section 2352. Dead animals shall be disposed of within 48 hours after death.
16. Chicken owners are responsible for ensuring that chickens are contained and not permitted to roam on adjoining properties.
17. Barbed wire fencing shall not be permitted for chicken runs or enclosures.

18. The height of fencing shall be sufficient to keep chickens within enclosures to prevent chickens from escaping confinement.
19. The owner of any chickens shall pay an annual fee for a chicken permit as determined by the Board of Commissioners.
20. The keeping of domestic male chickens (roosters) is prohibited on all lots except those in the Agricultural Zoning District.
21. The keeping of chickens is not permitted as an accessory to an apartment or multifamily use townhouse or within a Mobile Home Park District.

<b>OWNER</b>		
_____		
Owner's Name (print)		
_____		
Address		
_____	_____	_____
City	State	Zip Code
_____	_____	_____
Email	Phone	

<b>APPLICANT</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Same as owner		
_____		
Applicant's Name (print)		
_____		
Address		
_____	_____	_____
City	State	Zip Code
_____	_____	_____
Email	Phone	

Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tax Parcel ID: 63-\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_. Note: you can find your property's ID # here: [Dauphin County, PA Parcel Viewer](#)

I have attached a schematic drawing of the premises as described on the first page of this application.

- Yes.
- No. **The application cannot be approved.**

Type of Property:

- Single-Family detached dwelling.
- Duplex (single-family attached dwelling).
- Townhouse. **The application cannot be approved.**
- Multi-family. **The application cannot be approved.**

Size of lot: \_\_\_\_\_ square feet. **The lot must be at least 8,712 square feet.**

Size of rear yard: \_\_\_\_\_ square feet. **The rear yard must be at least 200 square feet.**

Proposed number of chickens: \_\_\_\_\_. **Must comply with #6 on page 1.**

Size of the coop: \_\_\_\_\_ sq. ft. **At least 3 sq. ft. of space per chicken.** Height of the coop: \_\_\_\_\_.

Size of the run: \_\_\_\_\_ sq. ft. **At least 5 sq. ft. of space per chicken.** Height of the run: \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant/Authorized Representative (if different than owner)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Owner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date