



CHICKEN COMBS

AN IMPORTANT KEY TO HEALTH



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Let's Talk Chicken Combs!

You can tell a lot by looking at a chicken's comb. Their age range, breed, and overall health. Also, your chicken's comb provides a visual guide to what's happening within the flock's dynamics.

Chickens can't sweat, so they control their body temperature with their comb and wattles.

I'm not a veterinarian nor a medical professional, but I do have many years of experience in caring for chickens. I believe in science-based care for my flock.

Take this as a guide and always do your own research. It's YOUR flock, so you get to decide. Please take the time to research the needs of your feathered friends.

PURPOSE

- > Circulation and overall health.
- > Releases heat, allowing your bird to stay cool during the hot summer months.
- > Conserve heat during cold months by restricting blood flow to the comb.
- > A chicken can distinguish between flock members based on their comb.

TYPICAL

- > Bright
- > Rosey
- > Free of lesions
- > Depending on age, breed, point of lay, and if currently molting.
- > Some breeds like the Ayam Cemani, naturally have black combs.

Potential Issues

BROWN OR BLACK

- > Pecking or Fighting Injury/Scrapes
- > Fowl Pox
- > Frostbite during cold months

PALE

- > Molting
- > Lice, Mites, or Parasites
- > Heat exhausting

PURPLE

- > Heart or Lung issues
- > Virus

ARTICLES

- > [Gail Damerow's Blog](#)
- > [The Chicken Chick - Fowl Pox Prevention](#)
- > [Poultry DVM - Frostbite](#)



Types of Combs!

Walnut



Buttercup



Single



V comb



Floppy



Rose



Comb types can vary depending on breed standards and barnyard mixes. There's 9 different types of combs. Some are rare and seen only in very specific birds. These are a few of the most common.