

Review of the Chicken Wagon by Neil Whitaker of www.Hencam.co.uk (29 Oct 15)

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You might have noticed our quite striking chicken coop, it's one of the new breed of plastic coops which promise easier cleaning, better insulation and better protection against the dreaded red-mite.

There are a few plastic coops available now - most seem to be quite expensive! We originally looked at Omlet's Cube, but it was ruled out when we realised how tiny it was (all of Omlet's coops/runs/cages are really small - their chicken runs always have either bantams or pullets in them - no fully grown hens! This is more than a bit naughty (They also say they are suitable for 6-10 birds! What kind, finches?!))

We were really impressed by Green Frog Designs as they show real, large grown hens in their product images! Scarlet very astutely noticed that most other sellers used very young or bantam hens in their product images - so Green Frog's images of the chicken wagon with a massive Brahma in were wonderfully refreshing and honest. They also specify the number of hens suitable for the wagon by quoting Poultry Club of Great Britain Guidelines and even say they prefer using Soil Association Guidelines as it offers more space per bird - this is so refreshing after seeing other's ridiculous quotes for how many birds you can cram in their tiny enclosures...

The Chicken Wagon coop was ordered mid-day and arrived the very next morning - delivery was free and certainly very fast! The guys at Green Frog were brilliant too - friendly and helpful.

You end up with several huge various sized boxes, opening them up reveals lots of large bits of plastic and small pieces and a rather daunting instruction leaflet. We laid everything out on the lawn (luckily the weather was fine) and went through the instructions identifying the bits and pieces so that when we came to actually make it we might have a better idea of what we were doing. They seemed pretty clear (they must have been or we'd have gone wrong!) and taking it slowly and carefully we had no problems - even having to build the wagon inside their coop as the final build wouldn't have fit through the door!

I had useful help whilst building it (thanks to my nephew Joe!) - it eventually took us about 7 hours to completely build.

After using it for several weeks, I'm still impressed by the chicken wagon. It's huge - I mean huge - it says it's suitable for 6 large hens but our 6 various sized can all roost on ONE of the perches - there are three in total!

The wagon is pre-setup for the Chicken Guard automatic door opener - this is amazingly well designed as you don't have to worry about setting it up, it's literally fit and forget, no more worrying about getting up to let the hens out, or secure them at night.

The nest boxes are designed in a way so that the eggs roll away from the hens to aid collection and to help prevent hens eating their eggs (after having a naughty hen who did this, this is another brilliant touch).

The inside of the chicken wagon can be pressure-washed to clean it, and there is practically nowhere for mites to hide - the lack of seams and joins you'd find in wooden coops is great.

It also looks fab on hencam - we really like the unusual design and style!

We also have loads more space for the hens - we've gone from:



To:



The new chicken wagon is nearly as big as the total run size the hens used to have! We had several leylandii taken out and the others severely trimmed back so we could fit the very biggest run that we could in there. Landscaping and enrichment is ongoing... It all looks great!