

Water dispenser for chickens

by [ravenc83](#) on June 6, 2011

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Intro: Water dispenser for chickens

I decided to make my own waterer for my chickens after having to replace many UV damaged store bought ones. I was also very annoyed having to fill the waterer up everyday, thanks to the chickens running around and knocking into it. The one I made works by the same principle as the store bought ones, by maintaining a vacuum.



Image Notes

1. Second valve for easier filling.

Step 1: Parts!

For this version I used:

- 4 2" elbows
- 2 2" T's (one 2"x2"x 1/2", one all 2")
- 2 Ball valves
- 2" PVC pipe
- 1/2" PVC pipe
- 1 1/2" cap
- 1 4" cap
- 1 Uniseal (<http://www.aussieglobe.com/index.htm>)
- PVC glue



Image Notes

1. Wasn't used after all.
2. Get two of these guys.
3. skip this one for the other T.
4. Water bowl.

Step 2: Cut pipe and dry fit everything!

This is the step where you cut all your pipe and make sure it all fits together.

Take care to ensure that all the pipes cut are clean and all (slag, pvc shavings, burrs, dingle berries) are removed.

I used 2 ft length pipes and found out that it had a 1.5 gallon capacity.

If you want to increase the capacity you could make the pipe longer or add cross members.



Step 3: The water bowl.

I highly recommend using a uniseal, (<http://www.aussieglobe.com/uniseal1.htm>). it fits in a hole and flares out when you stuff a pipe in it, creating a water tight seal. Also, on the down pipe you need to drill a set of holes, these holes need to be below the lip of the cap. As the water fills the bowl, the holes allow air into the system thus allowing more water out. When the water covers the hole, air can't enter the system and the water stops flowing.



Image Notes

1. Edit: I made the holes bigger after.

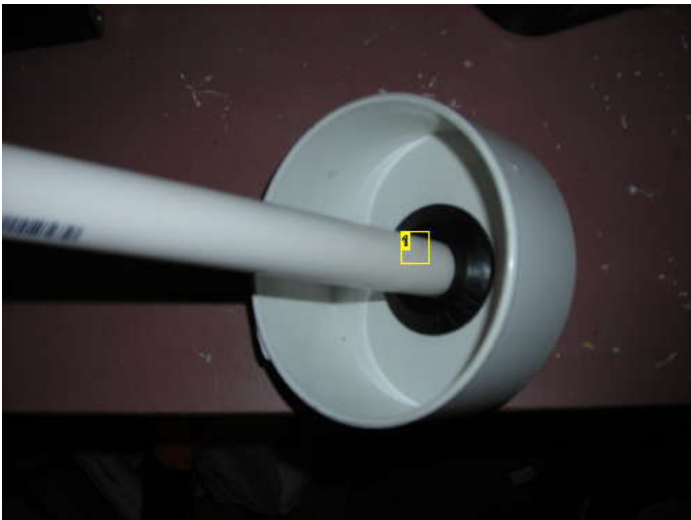


Image Notes

1. you want the holes to be below the lip of the cap. Once the water gets to that level, air can't enter the system.

Step 4: Glue everything together.

The system relies on maintaining a vacuum, so a good seal on all joints is a must. I put two valves on the system, one open and one closed. When filling it up I close the bottom one and open the top, and when in use it's reversed. Make sure to let the glue set before using the system.





Image Notes

- 1. Second valve for easier filling.



Image Notes

- 1. this was later exchanged for another valve.

Step 5: Put it to use.

With the old hanging waterer, I would have to fill it every day. This new system only has .5 gal more capacity, but lasts 3-4 days between filling. Since the chickens can't budge the water bowl, they can't spill the water.



Image Notes

- 1. open
- 2. closed

Step 6: Final thoughts.

I like to do the least necessary amount of work to grow future BBQ chicken. I'd like to make another one with higher capacity, and maybe add a way to check the water level.



Image Notes

1. open
2. closed

Related Instructables



how to build a cheap chicken coop by galgala6



Barbecued Chicken for Five for less than Five bucks! MMM Good! by potatomansoup



Raising backyard chickens! by popscott3



Tips For Chickens by zako



Keeping chickens in a harsh northern climate by DainiusGB



Sticks and Bones: How to Make a Nightmare Catcher by rbaumgar

Comments

4 comments

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Skip says:

could you rig the water feeding bowl to a much larger water storage device (rain barrel/ water tank, etc...?) so you wouldn't have to fill it up as often?

Jun 8, 2011. 2:14 PM [REPLY](#)



JavaLady says:

Good work. I've made a similar one for my coop. I used a 5 gallon bucket for my water holding tank, and those pet fountain ends where they have to tap-tap for water. Great minds think alike !

Jun 7, 2011. 7:18 AM [REPLY](#)



jrossetti says:

Interesting design. How long does the cup stay clean? How will you keep it from cracking when the water freezes in the winter?

Jun 6, 2011. 8:53 PM [REPLY](#)



ravenc83 says:

it stays relatively clean for about 3 days, when ever I have to fill it up I usually flush out the bowl. As far as the freezing, our winters really don't get that bad, we might get some ice on the surface. I would assume you could use some pipe insulation and/or paint it black.

Jun 6, 2011. 9:13 PM [REPLY](#)