

CONGRATULATIONS!
YOU ARE THE PROUD NEW OWNER OF A
FRONT YARD COOP

THE FIRST SOLAR POWERED, SELF-PROPELLED CHICKEN COOP



Front Yard Coop

USER'S MANUAL

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GETTING STARTED

Put your Coop where you want your chickens to range. Insert your chickens. Add food and water. **It's that simple...**



I. Feeding

If your coop has the electric fence option, **make sure you open (pull down) the electric fence knife switch before doing any work with the coop.** This cuts off all power to the electric fence charger (green unit on right) and **ensures safe working.**



- Lift up the short section of roof to find food hopper.
- On the opposite side of the coop is a small handle located just above the feeder (see image to left). Be sure this is closed (pushed in) and fill the hopper with feed.
- Once filled, you can go back to the handle and pull it out to let food out to fill the feeder, and push it back in to close off the flow of feed.

Remember: Pull out to feed, push in to close.

Avoid leaving the feed gate in the open position; in a hard rain it can accumulate water and clog the feed tube.



- To the left of that same short section of roof is a square tube that looks like a chimney (see image on left).
- Remove the cap and fill it with water to use the watering system. Re-fill both as needed.



II. Bedding

- Unlock and slide out the trays located under the coop and fill them with bedding. You can get pine shavings at your local feed store. Put a few inches of bedding in the two nesting boxes as well, which are located under the short roof.
- Replace with fresh bedding as needed.

III. If you own a “Full Monty” Motorized Coop



- If you have purchased the motorized version of the Front Yard Coop, turn it on. The switch is located on the control panel under the short roof section.
 - Be sure that the path you have chosen for your Full Monty is free of rocks, debris, and holes. It will also function best if the lawn is mown.
 - When turned on, it will start moving after a 5 -minute delay then slowly progress forward until it makes contact with something. Its sensors will then cause it to reverse direction.
 - Be sure you are happy with whatever your Coop will contact on both ends of its run, as it may well hit a tree, a building, a shrub, or your swing set. We suggest placing a stake in the ground where you would like the motorized coop to reverse.
- In the evening when the sun goes down your birds will instinctively seek the shelter of the coop and go inside. At about this same time a sensor will automatically shut down the power to the motor causing the coop to stop where it is. In the morning it will start back up with the sun. It is best to lock all doors at night, and open them up again in the morning.
 - The coop has a sensor that tells it when the battery power is low, which can happen if you have a series of cloudy days. This sensor will shut down power to the motor, again causing it to stop (in order to conserve electricity).



In certain cases you may need to charge the battery via the battery charger. The charger plug is located near the control panel.

- Pull out the cord and plug it into a socket. Plugging it into a normal outlet overnight should do the trick. It is always a good idea to keep an eye on the battery level indicator to avoid a total power shut down. **Tip: Three green dots should be displayed to indicate full charge.**



- If your hens are laying eggs, you should find eggs in the **nesting box**. These are conveniently located beneath the short roof section. Get in the habit of **gathering eggs each day**.
- When opening your Coop to access the nesting boxes or electronics, please be sure to hold the door open with one hand while gathering eggs with the other.



- When children are gathering eggs, an adult should hold the door open at all times. The roof can rest in the open position, but it can easily slam shut in a wind. Children can work with an adult to gather eggs—one holding the roof and one getting eggs.
- Make sure you stick a wooden stake in the vertical position on each end of the travel path. It will **NEED** these stakes in order to reverse its direction to the other side. The longer length the coop has to travel, the more ground the chickens have to range.

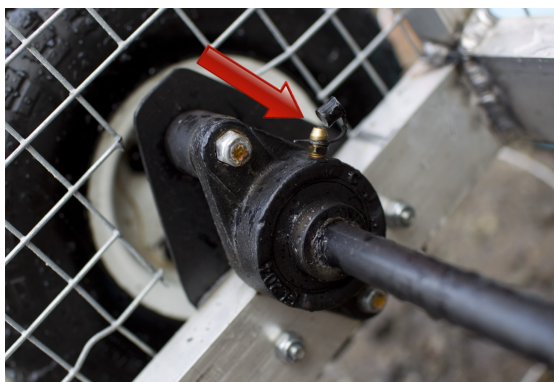


- Make sure you pivot the tow hitch out of the way when setting up the coop to travel on its own, to be sure that the bumper will be the first thing that touches the stake. This will ensure that the coop reverses properly. (See above image)

IV. Maintenance

You should regularly clean out soiled bedding from the nesting boxes and clean-out trays. Use common sense and clean when the bedding is soiled. **Tip: Solid wood shavings make a wonderful addition to your compost pile**

- You should also clean out the food and water reservoirs as needed. If you find the tubes getting slimy or moldy, then they should be cleaned. Move your coop away from your chickens and your grass, and flush out with a mild bleach solution.
- Be sure your grass is mown. The electric fence can short out if your grass is too long. The FYC works best on a 'normal' lawn, not a field or a meadow.
- If you see a lot of slack in the chain on a motorized coop, loosen the motor clamps, slide the motor and small gear up and re-tighten the clamps. A few drops of oil on the chain once a month is also recommended.



- The front axle bearings have grease nipples that should also be greased with a grease gun. While you are at it, oil the tow hitch pin, and the sliding door track (grease every 2 months).



- Check air pressure in tires as needed. Should maintain 25 lbs. When refilling, screw off valve as shown in left image. Caution: low tire inflation burdens the motor and will burn it out.



V. Protection **(WARNING)**

- Your Front Yard Coop is **electrified**. Please use it responsibly. The electric fence is switched on and off manually. If you are at home and you are not afraid of daytime predators, be sure to turn off the electric fence every morning, **especially if you have children** (you do this by pulling down the handle towards “off”, as shown in picture).
- A shock from an electric fence is **extremely painful**. However, if you are away from home during the day or evening, the fence should be turned on to keep predators out. You should get in the habit of turning it on every night to keep your flock safe.

- If you have a motorized Coop and small children, make sure they are **not in a place where the Coop will hit them**, as it moves across your yard. While it travels extremely slowly, you still need to be sure your young ones are out of the way.
- Be sure that you and your children keep their **hands away from the gears** that are attached to the front wheels at all time.
- Make sure you **DO NOT step on the coop's bumper or switch**, down below. Doing so will cause it to break (see picture to right). These are delicate components.



VI. Before you free range



- When considering letting your birds out of the coop to free range in your yard, we recommend doing this when you are sure your birds

know where “home” is. They should have been living in the coop for a week or so, after which time their instincts will lead them up the ramp to the safety of home each night. If you let them out of the coop, keep the door open for them to get back in, and chances are very good that they will put themselves away at the end of the day.

- If you are home, you may choose to scatter some scratch feed on the ground and combine that with the bugs and grubs your chickens will find as your coop travels across your yard. As your chickens free range keep an eye out for hawks, and be sure that your chickens are back at dusk.

VII. Troubleshooting

Motor Issues:

Won't start...

- Check that the switch is on
- Press red re-start button
- Check if tires are flat. This creates too much resistance for the motor and the system will shut down to protect overload.
- Battery may be dead
- Check that both bumper switches are not depressed (engaged), otherwise the coop will want to move in both directions.
- Check the fuse mounted on the red wire connected to the battery positive terminal

Won't reverse...

- Check switches, specifically connections. Are they broken?

Not charging...

- Solar panel may not be connected (check charge controller- only on motorized version, located to the right of the circuit board, has a charging indicator.) If the panel is charging check the fuse, then battery connections

System Overload protection...

- This can happen if the coop is stuck in the mud, tires are low, or encounters anything that doesn't result in depressing the bumpers
- If this happens, switch it off, fix problem, then switch on.
- System overload happens when the circuit board senses when the drive axel is turning and not moving the coop. If this happens it will shut down the motor to protect it.

Fence Issues:

FYC incorporates only the finest components. **The Kencove Stafix Unit** that has been supplied should last a lifetime. However if you should encounter any problems this is what you should look for:

Snapping Sound...

- It is a good idea when you turn on the fence to listen for a snapping sound. This indicates a short between the fence and a ground. This could be a piece of wet brush, stick, or a break in the wire insulation. It means that fence perimeter is NOT fully charged, and only protection part of your coop

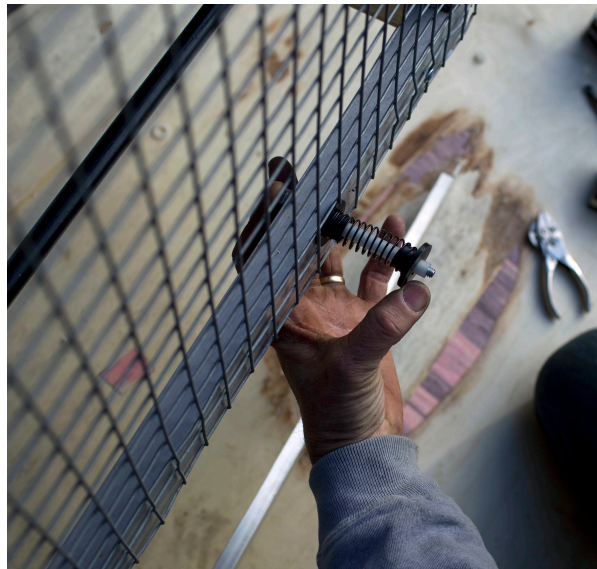
No fence charger indicator...

- Fuse may be bad, switch may be off, check connections at fence charger or battery.

VIII. Bumper Assembly for your Front Yard Coop



Step 1: Remove all the parts from the bumper guide assembly except the nylon sleeve and the white nylon washer. Insert from the inside of the coop the bolt with the sleeve and washer in place. Small white washer will remain on the inside of the front rail of the coop.



Step 2: Place the large black washer with the spring and second large washer on the shaft as shown.



Step 3: Both bumpers have a small black switch mounted in the center of the top edge of the bumper. Select the bumper marked with the label “under tow bar.” Tow bar is the front of the coop and this is the front bumper. Slide the bumper on the bolt with the nylon shaft, depresses the spring as shown.



Step 4: Put on the second nylon washer, and the nut as shown. Tighten nut to bolt. Make sure the nut is snug to the bolt, but **DO NOT** crush it.

***Repeat this step on the other side of the bumper.**



Step 5: Attach the electric fence supply wire to the bumper with the screw supplied.



Step 6: Place round shaft of the solar panel into the square mount as shown in image. This is the electrical connection between solar panel and coop.



Step 7: Stretch the electric fence wire between the bumpers, pass wire loop through the hole in the bumper and insert the clevis pin through the loop to secure wire.

Thank you for purchasing a
FRONT YARD COOP!

Feel free to Contact us with questions:

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Front Yard Coop

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