

The Chick Chalet 3

Owners Manual



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I. Unpacking

A. Inspect for damage

1. Check for damage when unpacking for the first time.

C. Plug it in

1. The Chick Chalet plugs into 120VAC and draws about 130 watts . (185 watts for the large model)

III. Air Supply

A. The air supply completely changes about every 4 minutes, providing fresh air for the baby chicks. Air is recirculated, past the fan and heating elements, and then directed down the four corners of the Chick chalet.

B. The temperature sensor is located between the center air opening

C. and the fan. Don't spray any liquid up into the fan opening. If you do, at some point you will cause the temperature sensor to fail.



IV. Adjusting the Chick Chalet

A. Selection knob

1. The selection knob has 2 operations. Push in (momentarily then let go) to start and push in to finish a selection and turn left or right to change the selection. (Push in and then release - some people try to hold the knob in and then turn the knob while it is held in - this won't work! Push in means push and release)

2. Passcode

- a) **Your passcode is 5 (default)**
- b) Push in the selection knob.

- c) When prompted dial in your passcode.
- d) Push in selection knob (and then let it out)
 - (i) If you wait too long the operation times out and the Chick Chalet resumes normal operation.
 - (ii) If you dial in the wrong passcode the Chick Chalet resumes normal operation
 - (iii) If you dial in the correct password the Chick Chalet moves to the temperature selection screen .

3. Temperature Selection

- A. Dial in the desired temperature.
- B. Push in the selection knob to set.
- C. **Always assess the baby when determining what is too hot or cold.** A baby that is too cold will huddle up against the side of the tub, a baby that is too hot will stretch out or even hang their head over the side when sleeping.

V. LCD (Liquid Crystal Display)

- A. Displays the temperature in both Celsius and Fahrenheit.
- B. Automatically uses the last settings even if the power has been off.

VI. Cleaning

- A. Windex and a soft cloth will be all that is needed to keep your Chick Chalet clean. Spraying with Nolvosan or a 10% diluted bleach solution will disinfect the Chick Chalet.

- B. The clear access door is made of a scratch resistant polycarbonate but for best performance should be wiped with a clean cotton washcloth (not a paper towel. Paper towels are more abrasive than cotton)

VII. High/Low Temperature Alarm

- B. The high temperature alarm is pre-programmed for about 2 degrees higher than the setpoint temperature.
- C. The over high temperature scenario includes:
 - 1. Sun shining through a window onto the Chick Chalet

 - 2. At lower operating temperatures i.e. 80°f the birds themselves may be big enough and old enough to generate their own heat to the point where they over-temp the Chick Chalet.
 - a) If the high temp Alarm sounds - push in the selection knob to silence it and open the Chick Chalet to vent some heat.

VIII. From Day 1

- A. Definition: Day One Baby is a baby 1 day old or less.

Run the Chick Chalet at 98°f to start.

(With day one babies, I double check everything so place a thermometer near the baby to double check the temperature setting. Adjust the brooder temperature up or down to compensate.)

1. Place the baby in a butter tub or container of your choice.
2. Place the container inside a sandwich bag (or gallon ziploc type bag) along with a soaked paper towel. Keep the paper towel separated from the tub.

a) The idea is to add extra humidity to just the area in the ziploc. **DON'T SEAL (ZIP) the ZIPLOC!!** The bag acts as a shield so the air circulating in the Chick Chalet won't blow on and dry out the baby. Even though the humidity tray will add humidity to the Chick Chalet, I supplement that humidity for the first few days. After a week or so the baby does not need the zip loc bag. **NOTE:** not needed if you have the Digital Humidity Control option.

b) Change the paper towel and bedding material in the tub at every feeding. This warm moist environment will grow germs so extra vigilance is required here. (True with any brooder).

B. Reduce the operating temperature of the brooder on day 3 to about 97°F and look at the baby.

1. **Always assess the baby when determining what is too hot or cold.**

a) A baby that is too cold will huddle up against the side of the tub,

b) A baby that is too hot will stretch out or even hang their head over the side when sleeping.

2. Every day or two after that I reduce the temperature another degree. Assess the baby in the brooder. (Is the baby acting too cold or warm?) So by the time their real down feathers are coming in (2-3 weeks) the temperature is down in the mid 80's

a) When fully down feathered they can be at "room temperature". I'll leave them in the brooder and their own body heat will keep them comfortable..

When placing older baby birds in the brooder deduct ½ degree per day of age up to 12 days old for an approximate starting temperature setting. Then observe the baby to read their body language. And adjust accordingly.

VIII. Optional Humidity Control

- a. **.Plug the humidifier into the outlet on the back of the Chick Chalet 3.** This is really important. That outlet is special. It only is powered when the Chick Chalet 3 senses that the humidity is lower than the setpoint you entered on the menu screen. (where you push the button in, let it go, enter passcode (5) then adjust temperature, push the button in, let it go, then adjust the humidity until the

desired level is displayed, push the button in, let it go and the Chick Chalet will start managing the temperature and the humidity.) It is not powered when you have enough humidity inside the Chick Chalet 3.

You can cause damage to to Chick Chalet 3 if you plug the humidifier directly into a wall outlet. That will cause unregulated moisture to flood into the Chick Chalet 3 and damage the electronics. So only plug the humidifier into the special outlet on the back of the incubator.

- b. Be sure to insert the large flexible hose into the top opening of the humidifier. This opening is tapered so the hose fits nicely about half way down. The other end goes into the matching hole on the back of the Chick Chalet 3.
- c. Set the "speed" control on the front of the humidifier to about 2/3.

Best practice is to let the Chick Chalet 3 fully warm up before turning on the power to the humidifier.

The humidifier is filled by lifting the tank off the base, turning the tank over, unscrewing the fill knob and filling with distilled or reverse osmosis filtered water. Otherwise the humidifier and incubator will end up with white hard water deposits everywhere.

Setting the humidity level is just like setting the temperature. In fact it is the next menu screen after the “set temp” menu. The desired humidity range is between 40% – 50% relative humidity. Running at humidity levels in excess of 65% for an extended time will cause the electronics to fail prematurely. The first time you setup and turn on the incubator, first heat up the incubator to it's operating temperature, then turn on the humidifier and observe it as it builds humidity to the desired setpoint. Sometimes, when starting from cold, the incubator will say the humidity is 80% or more before you even have the humidifier turned on. This is when the actual humidity inside the incubator is less than 20%. The solution to this issue is to spritz some water on the back wall of the incubator to in effect “prime the pump”. Close the door and within a few seconds the humidity readout will drop to the mid twenties and then climb as the humidity builds up. **On this first buildup the humidity may overshoot the setpoint, - so watch it peak and come back down and stabilize. Don't just turn it on and walk away.**

Using the Digital Humidity Control requires a greater responsibility for the operator. There is a delicate balance between the size of the different components. And if you are incubating puppies or kittens and the total mass of your animals is measured in pounds rather than ounces, then even how often you change wet bedding for dry can affect performance. And working at the extreme limits can throw off that balance. You, as the operator, need to be able to recognize when the system is not working properly and how to react quickly to correct the problem.

One example is the incubator fills up with so much moisture that the window/door fogs up. This indicates an extreme humidity level. If this happens – immediately turn off the humidifier, open the door, and let the incubator dry out. The humidity readout most likely will say 70% or more when this happens. Failure to act fast here will shorten the life of the electronics. Water and electronics do not get along – so again, we are balancing the moisture we need with the levels the electronics can tolerate.

The brooder will outlast the humidifier. Think of the humidifier as a replacement item that will need to be replaced every year or two. The water evaporating will leave mineral deposits behind – a white crusty film. This just a fact of life with any container holding water that is evaporating. When the humidifier is not being used – empty the base and turn the base on it's back side to allow any condensation to drain out.

X. Warranty

A. The Chick Chalet 3 carries a one year parts and labor warranty. Shipping charges to and from our facility are the buyer's responsibility. Give us an email at aveyincubator@gmail.com to start the warranty process.

X1. Return Policy.

A. Returns will be accepted for 15 days after shipping date on ***unused equipment returned in the original packaging***. You must call for return authorization or shipment will be refused. Shipping charges and arrangements are your responsibility. A restocking charge of 20% will be assessed. Packages must be insured. You need to call and notify us on the day you ship your return, be prepared to supply your tracking number.