

Chicken Breeds and the Colors of Their Eggs

Egg color is characteristic of the breed of chicken producing the egg. The genetic background of the hen (the hen's "mother and father") determines the inherited egg color produced. Egg color or pigment is secreted and applied to the final layers of the eggshell by the hen. The location of this pigment in the outer layer can be demonstrated by an experiment with a brown egg. The egg's color can be removed by soaking a brown egg in vinegar, which dissolves the outer layer of the shell.

Generally, the color of the chicken's earlobe accurately predicts the color of egg the hen will produce. Hens with white earlobes produce white eggs while hens with red earlobes produce brown eggs. Currently we are unaware of a book that displays pictures of eggs from different breeds of chickens. However, there is an excellent book that details and pictures the size and color of hundreds of species of birds.

Birds' Eggs (An Eyewitness Handbook) by Michael Walters (1994)
 Dorling Kindersley, Inc., 95 Madison Avenue, New York 10016

The following is a list of chicken breeds and their egg color.

<u>Chicken Breed</u>	<u>Egg Color</u>
Plymouth Rocks	Brown to light brown
Dominiques	Brown
Wyandottes	Light to rich brown
Javas	Brown
Rhode Island Whites	Brown to dark brown
Buckeyes	Brown
Chanteclers	Brown
Jersey Giants	Brown to dark brown
Lamonas	White
New Hampshires	Brown
Hollands	White
Delawares	Brown

Chicken Breed**Egg Color**

Brahmas	Light to dark brown
Cochins	Brown
Langshans	Very dark brown
Dorkings	White
Redcaps	White
Cornish	Brown
Orpingtons	Light to dark brown
Sussex	Brown
Australorps	Brown
Leghorns	White
Minorcas	Chalk white
Spanish	White
Andalusians	Chalk white
Anconas	White
Sicilian Buttercups	White
Catalanas	White or very light tint
Hamburgs	White
Campines	White
Polish	White
Houdans	White
Crevecoeurs	White
LaFleche	White
Faverolles	Light brown
Araucana	Blue to green to brown