

## Drinkers for the Backyard

Designing a system to suit your particular needs can be a challenge. After all there are literally dozens of different parts and systems out there. Here are some different options for reliable water to your birds. Remember the golden rule of drinkers "Break the rules and sooner or later it will bite you". Sounds a bit like life in general, you might get away with a bent rule for a while but then it bites. So what are the rules of drinkers:

- 1/ Always obey the manufacturers specifications, mainly in water pressure.
- 2/ Keep drinker lines as straight as possible.
- 3/ Keep drinker lines as level as possible, perhaps with a slight downward angle from beginning to end of the line.
- 4/ Keep drinkers as high as possible away from floors particularly litter floors.
- 5/ Always use clean water. A little Chloramine T ([NyceX](#)) in the water will keep it sparkling and pure.
- 6/ Water use. Layer birds will consume .25 to .35 litres of water per day per hen.



The **Ignition chook drinkers** are a quality, economic alternative to the cheap green and white drinkers. Not all manual drinkers are the same. The orange and white [Ignition drinker](#) is made of UV stabilised, rigid semitransparent plastic that will not go brittle. Hanger rope and accessories not included. The flat top allows easy filling and the trough is easy to put on, once 4.5 litre bucket is filled with water. Suitable for 10-20 hens for access but please consider quantity. As a rule of thumb 5 grown chooks will drink roughly a litre a day, more on hot days.

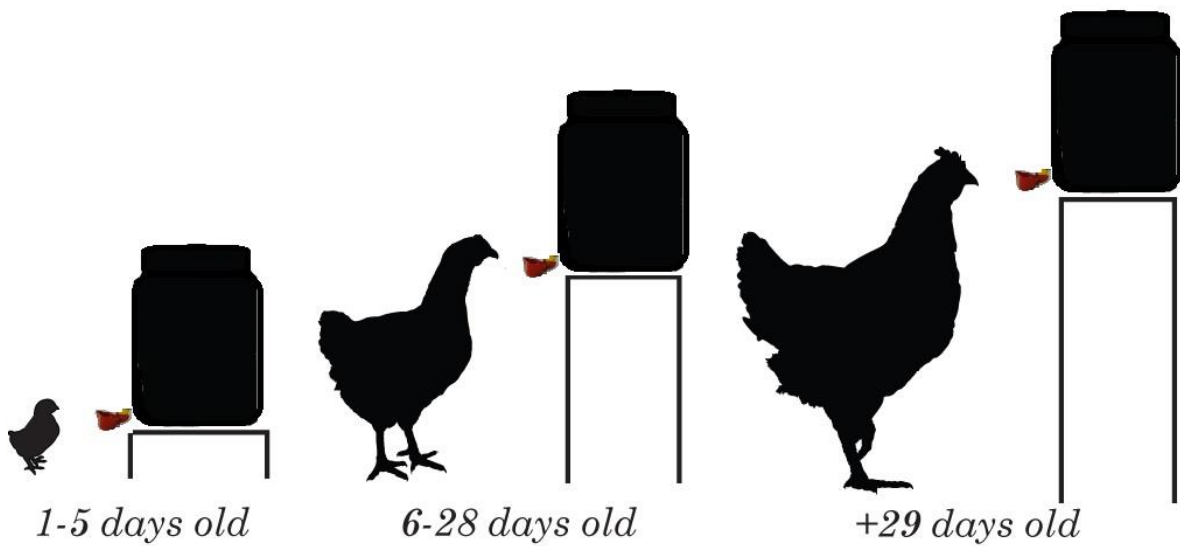
Dimensions 29cm x 30cm.

[4007 and 4009 red Lubing cup drinkers](#) are suitable for use with most species of birds, with the exception of ducks. The cups are ideal where the small amount of drip from straight nipples may cause wet litter.

Examples below of how red Lubing drinker cups can be configured.



The [4007](#) and [4009](#) red Lubing cup drinkers are small and fill up to 1/3 of the cup for good reason. The cups have very little water to reduce evaporation in the warmer months. The size of the cup is small and there is less opportunity for the hen to scratch debris into the water.



*Ideally, keep the drinker between beak and back height.*

If the water is clean, very few problems should occur. However if the nipple does get blocked or leak, it is almost always dirt in the nipple. The silver valve can be removed from the nipple, and the inner valve stem removed. Do not lose the valve parts! Wash in water and reassemble.



**4007 red Lubing cup drinker** is suitable for use with up to 15 day old birds, up to 5 weeks. The number of birds per cup should then be reduced as the birds grow. The 4007 has a yellow tongue float that refills the red cup drinker as the hens drink.

**4009 red Lubing cup drinker** is suitable for growing birds from 5 weeks onwards, with 6-8 birds per cup through to adult birds at 3-4 birds per cup. The white trigger needs to be pecked to release water into the red cup.



4007 and 4009 red Lubing cup drinkers are low pressure drinkers and handle a maximum water pressure of 300mm (height of water above drinker or head of pressure).



The [LU4201 tank](#) can offset water pressure.



**4001A Trigger cup drinkers** for adult hens and **4001I Trigger cup drinkers** for younger birds. Much like the old Hart cup, automatic drinker cups require slightly more pressure to operate than nipples do (at least 400mm of water pressure or head), but can also tolerate higher pressures of water, (about 2.5 metres) pressure or head. Screwed into adaptors which are glued into 19-20mm

round pipe, these drinkers use a tongue or trigger, pin and seal to control water coming into the cup. Reasonable amounts of water come into the cup when triggered allowing other birds to learn and use the trigger. Birds adapt and learn how to use these drinkers promptly. Cup comes with seal but not the pipe adaptor/s.

### Nipple Drinkers

Nipple drinkers can be used in most poultry water applications, from day old through to adults. The disadvantage of nipples with no cup or splash tray is that there can be some drips of water which end up in the litter. Damp litter is to be avoided with poultry.



For efficient use of the nipples, the height of the nipple is most important. The nipples should be suspended at the height where the chicks are stretching to reach the water. The birds should almost be jumping up to the nipples. If the nipple is low the bird will approach the nipple from the side and most water will bypass the bird's beak.

The [nipple drinker](#) is available in several forms:

4025- Yellow nipple for adult layers, 2 birds per nipple, high flow rate, stainless liner, captive valve

4024 - Yellow nipple for chicks and growers, medium flow rate with 360° side activation non- captive valve. Ideal for chicks, up to 15 day old chicks.

4022- similar to 4024, but all stainless steel including the capsule, with a non-captive valve. Ideal for up to 15 chicks per nipple, also suitable for guinea - pigs and rabbits.  
4050 - High flow rate for ducks.

The use of the nipple without a cup is only suitable where a small amount of drip and splash can be tolerated. The 4025 has a captive valve and can be used in open top containers.

**Bellsouth**  
POULTRY EQUIPMENT