

Kennel Design Suggestions

- **Location**
- **Drainage**
- **Size**
- **Floor Type**
- **Type of Kennel**
- **Roof**

1. **Location:** Decide where you want to have your kennel. Be sure to think of access to water and electricity. Also I like to be able to see my dogs easily and in turn want them to be able to see me. Also take in consideration trees. If at all possible have it near trees it will provide some shade in the heat of the summer.
2. **Drainage:** Once you have decided where you are going to have your kennel, then make sure you have proper drainage so that it won't stay too wet. If at all possible plan ahead and install some type of [in-ground septic system](#). I have plans available on here for a very easy, economical, and functional system.
3. **Size:** Decide now in the developing stage the maximum amount of dogs you are going to have, then add one to that. Trust me most people say "I'm sure I won't want more than two dogs...", but they always seem to get more. Depending on the size of dogs you are planning to keep the kennel runs can vary in size. Anywhere from 4 ½' x 8' to 6' x 12' should be plenty large enough, especially if you keep the housing on the outside of the kennel.
4. **Floor Type:** Flooring is the major component of a nice kennel. If at all possible and you can afford it I recommend a concrete floor. Concrete makes for an easy to clean and durable floor. Another good floor type would be concrete landscaping pavers. If you choose this type, then grade your ground smooth and haul in a load of sand and scatter over the dirt. Next use a long, straight 2x4 to give you a good edge to follow and place the pavers adjacent to one another. Once you have covered the entire area you have graded scatter loose sand over the top of the pavers and then broom it off. The sand will fill in the joints and lock the pavers in place. Another flooring type some people use is rubber conveyor belt material. This can usually be picked up at concrete companies, or mining companies very cheap if not free. In lieu of the conveyor belt material you could probably use a rubber bed mat that goes in the bed of trucks. Once again I would make sure the ground was elevated a bit above the average ground surrounding your kennel. Whichever flooring type you decide on be sure it has proper drainage to it so that it can be sprayed off rather easily. DO NOT DESIGN YOUR FLOOR TO BE LEVEL. Put some fall in it.
5. **Type of Kennel:** Lastly decide on the type of material you are going to build your kennel out of. The most popular, but most costly is chain link fence. There are other types though. Hog Panels, dog wire, etc...My personal kennel is framed using treated landscaping timbers and covered with chain link fence wire. Look around at other kennels and decide this for yourself.
6. **Roof:** If at all possible put a roof over your kennel. I would highly recommend when doing this to make it large enough that you can access the doors to the runs without getting wet if it is raining. A covered kennel stays a lot cleaner, cooler in the summer, drier and is easier to clean out, because there won't be as much debris in it. For example leaves, sticks, pinecones, etc...

These are just some suggestions and some things to think about when planning your kennel. I hope you are able to use them to provide your dogs with a safe, comfortable, clean and sanitary place to stay when they aren't in the woods!!! Happy Hunting!!