

MICRONA™ Poultry Grit

Calcium Carbonate Poultry Grit—Great Poultry Supplement!

Why Calcium Grit?

According to A. Bruce Webster, Extension Poultry Scientist, University of Georgia, "The skeleton of a typical modern egg-laying breed of hen only contains about 20 grams of calcium, each egg represents 10% of the hen's total bodily calcium. While the hen's skeleton acts as a calcium reserve to supply the demands of egg production, this reserve is rapidly depleted in the absence of an abundant calcium source in the feed eaten by the bird."

Webster recommends feeding a prepared layer ration with calcium or at least providing a particulate source of calcium, e.g. suitably sized ground limestone or oyster shell, that the birds can eat selectively according to their needs.*

Why do my birds need grit?

Most birds, domestic and wild, eat gravel. They swallow their food whole and need grit or small stones to assist digestion. These small rocks are used in their gizzard. They need the hard materials to hull and break down ingested berries, bugs, grain, and seeds. Domesticated birds that need extra rations of grit are pigeons, quail, doves, ducks, chickens (poultry in general), geese, turkeys, pheasants, and ostriches.

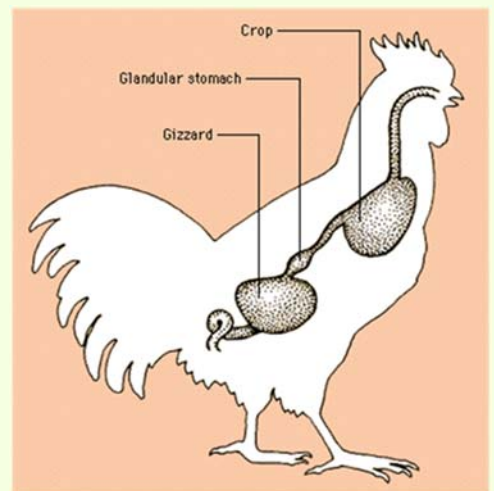
Birds on homemade diets, whole grain rations, or on pasture especially need MICRONA™ Poultry Grit. Even commercially available complete feed blends for birds that have calcium, do not contain grit and, therefore, you should supplement feed it.

Even if your birds have an outside run, they will soon deplete the area of the useable grit, so additional grit will be needed.

What is grit? (Definition):

- 1) Small rocks or gravel to aid digestion in chickens.
- 2) Chicken feed supplement made of crushed granite or limestone (calcium carbonate).

Layer grit can be crushed granite or limestone, or a combination of the two. In nature, birds pick up small rocks, pieces of bone, and shells. Domesticated birds also need grit with sharp edges to ensure best digestion and health. But, because they are confined, grit must be provided to them.



Types of Grit

The grit fed to poultry does not need to be granite. Any small gravel will do. Commercially available grit can be granite (70-77% SiO₂), Quartzite (>90% SiO₂, a sandstone metamorphosed into Quartz), or natural, calcium carbonate grit (93%CaCO₃).

Your feed store should carry grit. But sometimes, they unknowingly give you oyster shell instead. **Shell is too soft to do the job that grit does.** Ask them again for grit, tell them that shell is a calcium source and it is not interchangeable with grit.

MICRONA™ Poultry Grit however is BOTH calcium carbonate and a small gravel grit; it should be fed free choice to all adult poultry.

Add MICRONA™ Poultry Grit to your feed program today!

Feed MICRONA™ Poultry Grit free choice to all adult poultry for a source of grit and calcium carbonate.



Hygiene

MICRONA™ Poultry Grit will help to keep your chicken coop hygienic and clean. After your routine clean-out of the chicken house and yard, spread MICRONA™ on the ground (about a handful per square foot), then spread your bedding material. The calcium that is in the MICRONA™ Poultry Grit will decrease acid buildup and sweeten the soil. Since MICRONA™ Poultry Grit has a high pH between 8.5 and 9.5 it can help prevent pathogens such as E coli and Salmonella. Research shows the growth and survival rate of these pathogens is reduced when the pH is over 8.

Keeping the chicken area clean can minimize any potential health problems right from the start. An ounce of prevention is always worth more than a pound of cure. MICRONA™ Poultry Grit can help.



MICRONA™ Poultry Grit is certified for use in Organic Agriculture.

Words of Caution

Grit should be offered free choice.

All calcium grits (including crushed limestone) should not be added to a chicken's diet until they start laying or are near laying age. Too much calcium given to developing birds can be harmful to the bird's kidneys.

Never feed a grit consisting of dolomite to laying hens, because the magnesium in dolomite reduces egg production.

*Source: University of Georgia – Poultry Science Department - "Poultry Tips" September 2005.



9-15

Columbia River Carbonates

www.gardenpearls.com

(360) 225-6505

Although the information are presented in good faith and believed to be correct, Columbia River Carbonates makes no representations or warranties as to the completeness or accuracy of the information. Information is supplied upon the condition that the persons receiving same will make their own determination as to its suitability for their purposes prior to use. In no event will Columbia River Carbonates be responsible for damages of any nature whatsoever resulting from the use of or reliance upon information from this site or the products to which the information refers. THIS INFORMATION IS PROVIDED WITHOUT REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES, EITHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR OF ANY OTHER NATURE ARE MADE HEREUNDER WITH RESPECT TO INFORMATION OR THE PRODUCTS TO WHICH INFORMATION REFERS.