

HOUSING SPACE ALLOWANCES

Outlined below are additional requirements and guidance relating to livestock housing and space allowances.

Cubicles

Cubicle housing systems must have at least one cubicle per animal unless there is adjacent, adequately-sized loose housing (it is recommended that there are at least 5% more cubicles than the number of cows). Cubicles must:

- be long enough and wide enough to allow comfortable rest without injury – but short enough to prevent fouling in the bed and narrow enough to prevent turning around or lying at angles
- accommodate the natural rising of the animal and not cause the animal injury as it rises

Cubicle size must be determined by the size of the animal. Outlined below are the recommended minimum dimensions.

	Liveweight (kg)	Dimensions (m)	
		Length	Width
Cows	<600kg	2.4	1.15
	>600kg	2.5	1.20
Youngstock/Growing/ Finishing	200	1.45	0.7
	300	1.70	0.85
	350	2.05	1.05
	>350	2.1	1.10

Loose Housing

Group housing systems (including corrals) must be of sufficient size to allow all livestock to lie down simultaneously, ruminate, rise, turn around and stretch without difficulty. Recommended space allowances are outlined below. Cow space allowances would need to be increased where cows and calves are housed together.

	Liveweight (kg)	Space allowance (m ² per head)		
		Solid Floors		Fully Slatted Floors
		Bedded	Total (inc. bedding, feeding/ loafing)	
Dairy Cows*	400-499	5.5	8.0	NA (non-slatted lying areas must be provided)
	500-599	6.0	8.5	
	600-699	6.5	9.0	
	700-799	7.0	10.0	
	800 +	8.0	11.0	
Suckler Cows	400	3.50	4.9	
	500	4.25	5.85	
Calves	50-84		1.5	
	85-140		1.8	
	140-200		2.4	
Growing/finishing/ Youngstock **	200-299	2.0	3.0	1.1
	300-399	2.75	3.95	1.5
	400-499	3.5	4.9	1.8
	500-599	4.25	5.85	2.1
	600-699	5.0	6.8	2.3

* It is recommended that the space allowance for high yielding cows and cows in yards with a compromised design is increased (e.g. narrow access, poorly located water trough, excessive bedded area width). For a 700kg cow it is recommended the bedded area is increased to 9.5m²/ cow

** In-calf heifers must also have access to a non-slatted lying area

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Individual Calf Pens

Calves kept in individual stalls, pens or hutches (except for those in isolation) must be allowed direct visual and tactile contact with other calves (where there are 2 or more calves on-farm). Calves must have sufficient space to stand up, lie down, turn around, stretch and groom. Recommended minimum space allowances are outlined in the table below.

Calf weight (kg)	Pen size per calf
<60	1m x 1.5m
60-80	1m x 1.8m

All recommended space allowances for dairy cattle and calves have been taken from the British Standard BS 5502: 2005, or Dairy housing - a best practice guide (DairyCo).

Sheep

Sheep housing systems (including corrals and slatted flooring) must be of sufficient size to allow all livestock to lie down simultaneously, ruminate, rise, turn around and stretch without difficulty. Recommended space allowances are outlined below.

		space allowance (m ²)
Lowland ewes 60-90kg liveweight	Ewe only	1.2-1.4 per ewe
	With lambs at foot	2.0-2.2 per ewe and lambs
Hill ewes 45-65kg liveweight	Ewe only	1.0-1.2 per ewe
	With lambs at foot	1.8-2.0 per ewe and lambs
Lambs	Upto 3 months	0.5-0.6 per lamb
	3 months to 12 months	0.75-0.9 per lamb
Rams		1.5-2.0 per ram

All recommended space allowances for sheep have been taken from the Code of Recommendations for Welfare of Sheep.