



AnimalHealthCanada

Keeping Your Birds Healthy



ADDING OR REPLACING POULTRY

1. Purchase From Trusted Sources

- Only purchase or source poultry from certified breeders, hatcheries, and dealers.
- Request a copy of the source farm or hatchery's biosecurity protocols.
- Confirm that the birds you are purchasing have been tested clean for the same diseases your current flock has been tested for.
- When buying birds in person, check for:
 - Bright, alert eyes and healthy feathers.
 - Proper weight and approximate age.
 - Absence of signs of illness or injury.
- Do not purchase birds that appear unhealthy or exhibit signs of disease.

2. Safe Transportation

- Transport birds in crates and vehicles that are regularly cleaned, disinfected and inspected for contamination.
- Ensure that vehicles carrying birds follow premises entry biosecurity protocols when entering the farm.
- Clean and disinfect all tools, cages, and transport equipment before and after use.
- Wear protective clothing and footwear when loading or delivering poultry.

3. Quarantine New Additions

- Isolate new poultry from the existing flock for a minimum of 30 days.
- Introduce birds gradually and provide additional feeders and waterers to reduce competition and stress.
- Avoid adding young poultry to the existing flock until all birds are approximately the same size to prevent bullying or injury.
- Observe the new birds daily for signs of illness, including:
 - Sneezing, coughing, or nasal discharge.
 - Swollen eyes, mites, or lice.
 - Lethargy or reduced appetite.
- After integrating the new birds, monitor your original stock daily for signs of illness. Stress from flock changes can trigger latent illnesses.
- Use dedicated footwear and clothing and sanitize hands after working with quarantined birds.

REMEMBER: Purchasing and introducing new poultry to your flock requires careful planning to minimize the risk of disease and ensure the health of your birds.