



AnimalHealthCanada

Keeping Your Birds Healthy



WILD BIRDS, RODENTS, AND INSECTS

1. Secure Poultry Enclosures

- **Inspect Regularly**

- Check coops, pens, and poultry houses for openings that allow wild birds to perch, nest, or enter. Focus on:
 - Extended roof eaves
 - Rooftop ventilation openings
 - Overhead wires
 - Torn screens, holes, and broken doors
- Disease-causing organisms can spread through poultry enclosures, feed, water supplies, and vehicles.

- **Physical Barriers**

- Use concrete or gravel aprons around building walls to deter burrowing animals.

Cleaning

- Remove soiled litter and bedding to avoid contamination from sick birds.
- Clean and disinfect poultry housing, feed and water systems to reduce infections within and between flocks.
- Dry clean to remove soiled litter, bedding and old feed.
- Wash surfaces with a detergent, rinse and allow to dry.
- Disinfect surfaces and allow to dry before returning flock or introducing new birds.
- Remove old nests before nesting season, as birds will often return to the same nests year after year.
- Properly dispose of waste to avoid contaminating the surrounding environment.

4. Prevent Pest Access

- **Proactive Measures**

- Check regularly for rodents or insects and deal with any problems right away.
- Remove materials that attract pests, such as uneaten feed or accessible nests.

5. Protect Feed and Water Supplies

- **Feed Management**

- Remove spilled or uneaten feed immediately.
- Store feed in secure, rodent-proof containers without holes.

- **Water Management**

- Protect your flock's water supply from wild birds, rodents, and other pests.
- Use municipal water or treated well water to ensure cleanliness and safety.

2. Limit Contamination from Equipment and Vehicles

- **Avoid Contaminated Areas**

- Don't walk or drive through areas where waterfowl or other wildlife feces are present.

- **Thorough Cleaning**

- If contact with these areas is unavoidable, clean and disinfect shoes, vehicles, and equipment before re-entering your flock's area.

REMEMBER: Knowing and managing disease risks is key to keeping your poultry flock healthy.