



AnimalHealthCanada

# Keeping Your Birds Healthy



## CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

### 1. Routine Dry Cleaning After Every Flock

- **Remove Organic Matter**
  - Brush, scrape, shovel manure, feathers, litter, and debris.
  - Focus on cleaning corners, cracks, and caked-on dirt because germs can hide there.
- **Tools for Dry Cleaning**
  - Use scrapers, brooms, and shovels dedicated to poultry areas and store tools in a clean, dry place after use.
- **Waste Disposal**
  - Avoid contaminating the surrounding environment during disposal activities by disposing of used litter properly, following local regulations.

### 2. Deep Cleaning and Disinfection During the Year

- Schedule deep cleaning and disinfection at least once or twice a year.

#### Deep Cleaning Steps

- **Prepare the Enclosure**
  - Move birds to a secure area.
  - Remove all remaining organic material.
- **Wet Cleaning (During Scheduled Deep Cleaning)**
  - Scrub surfaces with water and detergent.
  - Work systematically from top to bottom and back to front.
  - Rinse thoroughly with clean water.
- **Apply Disinfectant**
  - Use an effective disinfectant (e.g., approved for poultry diseases such as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and Salmonella).
  - Follow the label for correct dilution and application.
  - Focus on corners, cracks, and hard-to-reach areas.
- **Drying**
  - Let the enclosure dry completely before bringing the birds back in.

### 3. During Downtime, Leave the Enclosure Empty

- Plan for downtime during the year to reduce the survival of disease-causing agents in the environment.
- This step is particularly effective for controlling diseases like HPAI and Coccidiosis.

### 4. Diseases That Require Cleaning and Disinfection

- Some poultry diseases demand strict cleaning and disinfection due to their persistence in the environment or high risk of spread. Examples are: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), Newcastle Disease, *Salmonella*, *Mycoplasma*, Coccidiosis, Fowl Cholera, and Infectious Bursal Disease (IBD) among others.

### 5. Daily and Weekly Tasks

- **Daily**
  - Remove spilled feed and water to avoid attracting pests or causing moisture buildup.
  - Ensure manure is not accumulating excessively.
- **Weekly/Monthly:**
  - Inspect nesting boxes, perches, and corners for cleanliness.
  - Spot-clean areas that are visibly dirty.

### 6. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- **Dedicated Gear**
  - Use boots, gloves, and clothing specifically for working with poultry.
  - Wash reusable PPE or dispose of single-use items after cleaning.
- **Handwashing**
  - Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after cleaning or handling waste.

### 7. Recommended Disinfectants and Best Practices

1. Mix 1 part bleach with 10 parts water or use Virkon Solution, following the manufacturer's instructions.
2. Pour the disinfectant generously on the area to ensure proper coverage and allow it to sit for at least 10 minutes or the time specified by the manufacturer to neutralize any viruses.
3. Change to dedicated boots or disinfect footwear before entering the enclosure.
4. Perform deep cleaning in warmer months to take advantage of faster drying.
5. Keep pets, children, and other animals away from the treated area until it is dry.