



AnimalHealthCanada

Keeping Your Birds Healthy



MANAGING POULTRY MANURE AND LITTER

1. Understand Your Needs

- **Identify the types of manure and litter produced by your flock** (e.g., solid, semi-solid, or liquid manure).
 - Estimate the volume produced over a given timeframe based on the number of birds.
- **Evaluate Options**
 - Determine whether manure and litter will be managed onsite (e.g., composting, storage) or offsite (e.g., transportation for disposal or use).

2. Wildlife, Insect, and Rodent Control

- **Prevent Access**
 - Secure storage areas with tight covers or fences to deter scavenging by wildlife and burrowing by rodents.
- **Insect Management**
 - Monitor and control fly populations around manure and litter storage areas to help prevent the spread of disease.

3. Environmental Concerns

- **What To Do**
 - Learn about the laws and guidelines for managing manure and litter.
 - Take steps to prevent problems like water contamination, bad odours, and nutrient runoff.

4. Cleaning and Disinfection

- **Before Adding Birds**
 - Remove all manure and litter from poultry houses completely.
 - Dry cleaning should be done after every flock to remove manure and debris while washing and disinfection can be done during downtime or after a disease outbreak.
- **Vehicle and Equipment Sanitation**
 - Clean and disinfect all vehicles and equipment used in manure removal before they arrive onsite and after each use.

5. Develop Standard Procedures

- **Collection and Transport**
 - Set regular schedules for collecting and transporting manure and litter from poultry houses.
 - Use dedicated equipment and vehicles for manure handling to prevent cross-contamination.
- **Storage**
 - Store manure and litter in secure, covered areas to prevent access by wildlife, rodents, and insects.
 - Ensure storage sites follow municipal and provincial environmental regulations.
- **Use or Disposal**
 - Decide how you will use or safely dispose of manure and litter, such as composting it for fertilizer or disposing of it safely.
 - Only spread fresh litter/manure/slurry in a manner that mitigates potential contamination of neighboring properties: avoid spreading on windy days, when rain is imminent.
 - If spreading on fields, follow agricultural regulations to keep it away from water sources and prevent disease spread.

6. Backup Plan for Potential Disease Outbreaks

- **Long-Term Storage and Risk Mitigation**
 - Have a backup plan for safely storing manure and litter onsite if a disease outbreak prevents offsite disposal.
 - Work with your municipal and provincial animal health authorities to identify safe practices for long-term storage under high-risk conditions.
 - Only spread fresh litter/manure/slurry in a manner that mitigates potential contamination of neighboring properties: avoid spreading on windy days, when rain is imminent.