



AnimalHealthCanada

Keeping Your Birds Healthy



WATER SUPPLY FOR BACKYARD POULTRY

1. Use a contained water supply

- Use safe, contained water (e.g., well or municipal water system) for drinking, cooling, and cleaning.

2. Avoid Surface Water

- Ponds, streams, and other surface water sources are at high risk of carrying disease-causing germs. Only use properly sanitized surface water.
 - If surface water must be used, it must be sanitized using approved water treatment methods to kill germs and pathogens before use.

3. Back-up plan for water source

- Make a plan to handle risks from untreated water, including emergency treatment options.
- Have backup water sources or systems to ensure a safe water supply during emergencies.

4. Water Testing

- Test water used in poultry houses regularly (e.g., annually) to assess bacterial contamination levels.
- If bacterial count exceed acceptable levels (zero per 100 mL of Total coliform bacteria and zero per 100 mL of E. coli bacteria), immediately disinfect water supply.
- Work with experts to select appropriate water treatment methods based on your system and flock needs.
- If you add vaccines to drinking water, make sure the water treatment doesn't weaken or stop the vaccine from working.
- Clean waterers after vaccination (e.g., after 2 hours).
- Test water systems during higher risk periods such as heavy rain, during the spring thaw and after illness in the flock.

REMEMBER

Providing clean, uncontaminated water is essential for maintaining flock health and preventing disease spread. Testing your water annually helps you to identify potential contamination.