



AnimalHealthCanada

# Keeping Your Birds Healthy



## DISPOSING DEAD BIRDS

### 1. Plan Ahead

- Set up a daily plan for disposing of dead birds.
- Have a backup plan for handling large losses during an outbreak or emergency.
- Make sure all disposal methods follow local, provincial, and federal regulations.

### 2. Training and Signage

- Ensure everyone working on the farm understands the proper handling of dead birds, equipment cleaning, and disposal measures.
- Display signage at disposal and collection areas outlining biosecurity steps and protocols.

### 3. Movement of Dead Birds

- Include a clear map in your plan showing how dead birds are moved from the flock area to the disposal site.
- Alternatively, document the process in detail to ensure clarity for all personnel.
- Position collection bins inside the barn and storage containers outside the flock area but within easy access for disposal.

### 4. Detering Pests

- Use collection bins with tight-fitting lids to prevent access by wild birds, rodents, insects, or scavengers.
- Ensure compost piles or burial pits are adequately covered to deter scavengers.

### 5. Movement and Transport

- Designate specific equipment and vehicles for handling dead birds.
- Clean and disinfect these tools and vehicles before and after use.
- Avoid using the same equipment for feeding, manure handling, and dead birds removal without thorough cleaning and disinfection.
- Ensure that vehicles and equipment for disposal stay well away from the bird areas.
- Outline how dead birds are safely moved to the pickup location without compromising biosecurity.
- Schedule trips to disposal sites at the end of the day to prevent contaminants from being carried back to the farm.

### 6. Collecting Dead Birds

- To reduce the risk of disease spread, pick up dead birds as soon as possible, at least once daily.
- Wear necessary PPE (e.g., gloves, masks, etc) when disposing dead bird.
- Change outer clothing and sanitize hands following dead bird collection and disposal prior to returning to work with your flock.
- Keep dead birds in sealed, pest-proof containers or dispose of them using approved methods, such as:
  - Incineration
  - Composting
  - Burial in properly constructed pits
  - Pickup by a licensed disposal service

**REMEMBER:** Proper disposal of dead birds is critical to minimizing disease risks and maintaining a clean and healthy environment for your poultry flock.