

BioSecurity



What is BioSecurity?

BioSecurity means doing everything possible to protect your birds from disease. As a bird owner, keeping your birds healthy is a top priority. Your birds can become sick or die from exposure to just a few unseen bacteria, viruses, or parasites. In a single day, these germs can multiply and infect all of your birds. By practicing BioSecurity, you will keep your birds healthy.

If you follow some basic tips and make them part of your care routine, you will decrease the risk of disease entering your flock and reduce its presence in the soil, droppings and debris. Good BioSecurity practices is an investment in the health of your birds.

What Can I Do to Protect my Birds?

5 Ways to Prevent Poultry Disease:

- 1. Keep your distance.** Do not come into contact with your birds more than what is necessary for their health and well-being. Do not allow visitors to come into contact with your birds. Consider forming a barrier between “clean” and “dirty” areas.
- 2. Keep it clean.** Bedding, food and water should be clean and fresh.
- 3. Don't cross contaminate by visiting other farms.** Be sure to clean and disinfect equipment and clothing before returning to your farm.
- 4. Know the warning signs of infectious bird diseases.** Early detection can help prevent the spread of disease. Signs include:
 - Sudden increase in bird death
 - Birds that are sneezing, gasping for air, coughing, or nasal discharge.
 - Watery or green diarrhea.
 - Lack of energy, or poor appetite.
 - Reduction in egg production, or thin/soft-shelled/misshapen eggs.
 - Swelling around the eyes, neck and head.
 - Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs and legs.
 - Tremors, drooping wings, circling, twisting of the head and neck, or lack of movement.
- 5. Report sick birds.** If your birds are sick or dying, contact your agricultural office/agent, or veterinarian.



Cleaning and Disinfecting

Cleaning and disinfecting is one of the most important parts of BioSecurity. It is important to clean correctly in order to inactivate disease. These steps include:

1. **Thoroughly clean** and scrub objects before applying disinfectants. Disinfectants cannot work on top of caked-on dirt and manure, so wash surfaces thoroughly before disinfecting them.
2. **Apply disinfectants** using brushes, sponges and spray units. Allow adequate contact time (follow manufacturer's instructions)
3. **Dispose of used disinfectant** according to local regulations.

Making an Easy Footbath:

A footbath is a handy tool to help you practice biosecurity. You can easily make one yourself. You will need:

- A low plastic pan or bin, wide enough to fit an adult's foot and shallow enough to step into easily.
- A plastic doormat (the "fake grass" mats work well)
- A disinfectant that works well for most situations, such as Tek-trol or One Stroke Environ.
- Water.

Mix the disinfectant with water according to the label instructions. Put the doormat in the plastic pan. Add disinfectant so that the bottom of the mat is wet.

Ask visitors to walk through the footbath, wiping their feet on the mat. The mat scrubs their shoes a bit as they wipe them and applies the disinfectant.

When the liquid starts to get dirty, empty it and put in new disinfectant.

Cleaning and Disinfecting Checklist

- ✓ **Move** your birds to a separate area so that you can do a thorough cleaning.
- ✓ **Remove** all old litter, manure, and other debris.
- ✓ **"Dry" clean** all areas – brush, scrape, and shovel off manure, feathers, and other materials. Disinfectant will not work on top of manure or caked-on dirt.
- ✓ **"Wet" clean** all surfaces - scrub with water and detergent. Work from top to bottom and back to front.
- ✓ **Rinse** all surfaces carefully with water.
- ✓ **Apply** a disinfectant according to the directions on the label. Be sure to use a disinfectant that is effective against avian influenza virus or other diseases of concern. This information will be on the product label.
- ✓ **Leave** the enclosure empty until it is completely dry. Use fans or allow to air dry.
- ✓ **Clean** and disinfect your boots, and wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after you have cleaned, fed or watered. Wash the clothes you are wearing.



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