How to Clean Your Coop

SMALL FLOCKS COLLABORATIVE

Cleaning your coop is key to to preventing disease in your flock and keeping your flock healthy. Follow these steps for cleaning and disinfecting your coop.

1 Move Birds, Equipment, and Bedding

- Move birds to a safe place.
- Take out the feeders and waterers.
- Remove and dispose of all used bedding.

2 Dry Clean

- Sweep out feathers, manure, and dirt.
- Use a scraper to remove anything stuck on surfaces.
- Make sure any loose dirt or grime is completely removed.

3 Wash

- Soak and scrub all surfaces like roosts, walls, and nesting boxes with warm water and a mild soap (such as dish soap).
- Thoroughly clean and scrub objects before applying disinfectants.

4 Rinse

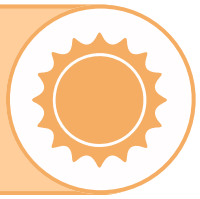
- Rinse thoroughly to remove any soap residue. If available, use a pressure washer to remove remaining organic material.
- Disinfectants are ineffective if organic material (dirt and manure) is present

5 Disinfect

- Apply a poultry-safe disinfectant, such as 1 part bleach to 9 parts water (e.g., 1.5 cups of bleach to 1 gallon of water) or a commercial disinfectant labeled for poultry and rinse if required. Always follow manufacturer's directions.

6 Dry Completely

- Allow everything to dry completely before adding fresh bedding and letting your birds back in.
- If the coop remains wet, dry everything with a towel.



Cleaning vs. Disinfecting

1. Cleaning

- Removes organic material like dirt, manure, feathers, and debris.
- This step includes physically removing debris, soaking, washing, and rinsing surfaces. Remember, disinfectants cannot work on top of caked-on dirt and manure.

2. Disinfecting

- Kills harmful germs like bacteria, fungi, or viruses that remain after cleaning.
- This step works on hard, non-porous surfaces like metal, plastic, or painted wood. Porous materials, such as untreated wood or bedding, are difficult to disinfect.

Why This Matters

Regular cleaning prevents germs from spreading, keeps your birds healthy, and reduces the chance of disease.

Find more at
www.healthybirds.info