

## Steps to Take

Five simple steps to manage waste and dead birds. Make sure to **always check local rules first**, like HOA and zoning regulations, health codes, and how waste is stored or handled.

1

### Wear Protection While Cleaning

- Always wear gloves and a mask
- Wash hands, equipment, and boots after cleaning
- If disease is suspected, wear coveralls or eye protection
- No eating, drinking, or touching your face while cleaning

2

### Keep Your Coop Clean

- Deep clean every few months with poultry-safe disinfectants
- Remove soiled bedding and droppings regularly

3

### Manage Normal Coop Waste

- Decide between composting or landfill disposal
- Have a plan for bedding and manure, different options may work better in different areas

4

### Have a Plan for Mortalities

- Remove dead birds promptly to reduce spread of disease and risk of maggots
- If you have multiple deaths or suspect Avian Influenza, contact your state animal health official immediately

5

### Extra Steps For Concern of Disease

- Double-bag the bird and spray outer bag with disinfectant
- Use a lidded bin for disposal
- Don't leave carcasses where animals can reach them
- Disinfect all tools, boots, and surfaces after handling

## Disposal Options

Some cities and HOAs limit how waste is stored or handled. Always review local **zoning, permitting, ordinances, and health codes**. Many places don't allow burial or open burning.

### Trash Disposal

- Most backyard birds can go in your normal household waste
- Double-bag carcasses; spray the outer bag with disinfectant if disease is suspected
- Place in a secure outdoor bin
- Wash your hands after handling waste
- Always check local rules before disposal

### Composting

- Difficult for carcasses in small flocks
- Animal waste (meat, bones, whole birds) causes odors and attracts pests

### Disease Testing

- You can request a necropsy from a veterinarian or vet lab. This is an exam of an animal that died to learn the cause of death.

## Composting



Keep piles away from the coop and water sources



Secure waste from rodents, pets, and wild birds



Composting varies by climate make sure to follow local guidance

## Landfill Disposal



Bag and place waste in a secure, lidded bin



A good option in cold weather or where composting isn't practical



Wash hands and tools afterward