



# Disease Prevention Guide

## Backyard and Pet Bird Owners

Your birds depend on you to keep them healthy. Disease prevention means doing everything you can to protect birds against disease. Diseases move when contaminated birds, people, and materials are moved from one location to another. You can greatly decrease the risk of diseases entering your birds by making these basic tips part of your daily routine.

### Backyard Biosecurity

- Do not share birds, equipment, or feed with other bird owners.
- Avoid contact with other people's birds; they may look fine, but carry disease.
- Restrict access to your birds; visitors may carry disease on their clothing or shoes.
- Isolate new birds from your other birds for 14 days and observe them for signs of illness.
- Isolate birds and disinfect your cages and equipment after returning home from events.
- Never obtain birds from unreliable sources.
- Thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water before and after having contact with birds.
- Scrub and remove all debris from your footwear, giving particular attention to the soles, with soap and water and spray with a disinfectant.
- Consider using a disinfectant foot bath with a scrub mat at the entrance to your bird area.
- When buying feed and supplies, clean and disinfect your vehicle before you return to your property.
- Maintain a clean and sanitary environment for your birds; remove feces, feather, and spilled-feed on a daily basis.
- Dedicate a set(s) of easily-cleaned clothing and footwear for bird activities.
- Properly dispose of dead birds. Check on local ordinances for acceptable disposal methods.
- Keep wild birds, insects, and rodents away from your birds as they are also disease vectors.

### Disinfectants

- Thoroughly clean and scrub objects before applying disinfectants.
- Prepare disinfectants regularly and change the foot baths when they are dirty.
- Apply disinfectants using brushes, sponges, and spray units or use a foot bath.
- Allow adequate contact time of disinfectants.
- Carefully read and follow the manufacturer's directions and take all precautions.
- Dispose of soiled disinfectants in accordance with local regulations.

### Examples of Disinfectant Products

- **1-Stroke Environ™** - germicidal detergent
- **Tek-trol™** - disinfectant cleaner concentrate
- **Nolvasan® S** - Chlorhexidine diacetate
- **Clorox Regular Bleach** - EPA: 5873-50 (sodium hypochlorite 6%)
- **Lysol Power & Fresh Multi-purpose cleaner®** - EPA: 777-66 spray
- **Purell®** - hand sanitizer

### Making a Foot Bath

- Use a plastic pan wide enough to fit an adult's foot and shallow enough to step in,
- Add plastic doormat (a "fake grass" mat works well),
- Mix a disinfectant that works well for most situations, such as Tek-trol™ or 1-Stroke Environ™, according to label instructions,
- Add the disinfectant to the pan so that the mat is covered,
- Ask visitors to walk through the foot bath and wipe their feet on the mat, and
- Empty the pan and put in new disinfectant when the liquid starts to get dirty, low in volume, or too diluted due to rain.

To report an unusual number of sick or dead birds, call:

**Sick Bird Hotline**  
**(866) 922-2473**

**Disclaimer:** Trade names used in this publication do not constitute a guarantee, warranty, or endorsement of the products, nor criticize similar products not mentioned. California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) bears no responsibility for liability resulting from the use of these products. These procedures are not guaranteed to prevent highly contagious diseases from affecting your birds; however, they will reduce risks.

### CDFA Animal Health Branch

Headquarters - (916) 900-5002  
Redding District - (530) 225-2140  
Modesto District - (209) 491-9350  
Tulare District - (559) 685-3500  
Ontario District - (909) 947-4462

**USDA-APHIS-VS** (916) 854-3950 or (877) 741-3690

For more information, please click the following:

[Animal Health Branch](#)  
[Avian Health Program](#)