

Disease Prevention

For Backyard and Pet Bird Owners

Your birds depend on you to keep them healthy. Disease prevention means doing everything you can to protect your 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 30 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, feathers 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 by burial, incineration or take them to a landfill. 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 disinfectant in accordance with local regulations.

Examples of 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 low plastic pan wide enough to fit an adult's foot and shallow enough to step in.
- Add a 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 the 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.
- Empty the pan and put in new disinfectant when the liquid starts to get dirty, low in volume or too diluted due to rain.

Contact Information	
CDFA Sacramento (HQ)	(916) 900-5002
CDFA Modesto District	(209) 491-9350
CDFA Ontario District	(909) 947-4462
CDFA Redding District	(530) 225-2140
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USDA-VS Toll Free	(877) 741-3690
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. 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.

For more information, visit the following web sites:

http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/Avian_Health_Program.html and <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/>