

# How to Clean Your Coop

Cleaning your coop is key 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.**

