

## 8 Tips to Properly Clean-up Bird Droppings

To increase the success of any bird control product installation, a thorough cleanup and disinfecting of bird droppings and debris should be done. Pigeons are by far the most prevalent pest bird in urban settings. A well-fed bird can easily create 25 pounds of droppings annually. This debris can carry any of 60 transmittable diseases, including histoplasmosis, cryptococcosis and psittacosis. Pigeon droppings are not only unsightly, but their acids can eat into metal, plastic, wood and even stone. Over time, feces can deface and damage buildings, vehicles, fences, trees, shrubs, lawns, benches, park fountains and other structural elements.

### 8 Tips to Successfully Clean-up Bird Droppings



Bird feces corrodes a metal post

- 1. Wet all droppings with a hospital-grade disinfectant spray.**
- 2. Loosen hardened areas with Waste Digester.** This product contains a biochemical live enzyme that breaks down hardened droppings and neutralizes odors.
- 3. Do not generate dust.** To prevent the inhalation of spores, never dry shovel, dry sweep, or vacuum bird droppings.
- 4. Physically scrape up bird droppings and dispose in a double bag.** Once the droppings have been thoroughly soaked, scrape them into a double strength plastic bag. As a reminder, wet droppings can get heavy.
- 5. Inspect the area for damage and make necessary repairs.** Bird droppings are acidic and can quickly eat away at building materials. Ideally, make repairs prior to the installation of permanent bird control devices.
- 6. Pressure wash and disinfect the area.** After scrapping away the bulk of the bird droppings, power wash and disinfect the area to eliminate any residual odor and bacteria. Remember to use receptacles to collect all waste water, keeping in mind runoff. In many areas, sewers may drain to ocean or river channels. You must take all precautions to reduce the risk of contamination that could lead to poor public and marine health or regulatory fines.
- 7. Properly dispose of bird droppings.** Be sure to check local and state regulations on where and how to dispose of bird droppings. In some jurisdictions, they can be considered a hazardous material and will need to be disposed of as such.
- 8. Practice good hygiene to minimize future exposure by taking care of your equipment and gear.** After you have been in contact with bird droppings, always assume your gear and PPE are contaminated. Take precautions to ensure everything is properly disinfected, respirator cartridges are replaced, rubber boots are rinsed, coveralls are thrown away or commercially laundered.



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## Plan Ahead

Before beginning the sanitation process, thoroughly inspect the site area. Notate current conditions, property damage, potential safety hazards, and drains. Based upon the area to be cleaned, crew may need access to water, a shovel, broom (or HEPA dry-vac), a power washer, and trash bags. Always assume bird droppings are contaminated. Make sure your crew has proper PPE to protect themselves.

### Microcide SQ Disinfectant

Ideal for cleaning, disinfecting, and deodorizing surfaces soiled with bird droppings, Microcide SQ is a broad-spectrum, hospital-grade EPA approved disinfectant that is effective against 108 different disease-causing viruses, bacteria, yeast, and mold. USDA approved for food and non-food contact surfaces, Microcide SQ is safe for sanitizing and disinfecting all inanimate surfaces. Microcide SQ can clean and disinfect any commercial or residential surface soiled with bird droppings, including rooftops, ledges, windowsills, and areas near HVAC units.



### Waste Digester

Ideal for cleaning, digesting, and deodorizing accumulations of bird droppings, Waste Digester uses live biochemical enzymes to break down large accumulations of droppings that have become hardened over time. Sold by the gallon, the formula is safe, non-toxic, and USDA approved. Highly versatile, Waste Digester can be used on any commercial or residential surface where bird droppings have accumulated including rooftops, ledges, window sills, I-beams/girders, and areas near HVAC units.

**Did you know birds can carry more than 60 transmittable diseases?**

## Harmful Dusts

Inhalation of dried pigeon droppings can allow harmful bacteria and gases to enter the body, causing respiratory issues and sickness. When maintenance, construction, and cleaning crews are deployed to clean pigeon droppings, it's important to provide proper PPE to protect them from potential contamination.



### 3M 6000 Series Half-Face Respirator

This half-face reusable respirator offers reliable and convenient respiratory protection against airborne particulates as well as a wide variety of gases and vapors according to NIOSH approvals. The 3M 6000 Series protects cleaning crews when removing bird droppings, nesting materials, and debris. Combined with other PPE, this respirator protects crews from unnecessary contamination and inhalation of dried bird feces. The mask also prevents dust and other particles and debris from being inhaled. The respirator uses two filters that can be easily changed as needed. Available in two sizes: medium and large.



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