

KEEP IT CLEAN!

Bird feeders offer a wonderful way to observe the variety of birds in your area. But if they're not kept clean, feeders can help spread salmonellosis, trichomoniasis, avian pox, aspergillosis, and conjunctivitis—diseases that are fatal to birds.

So keep your bird feeders safe. **Clean the area around your feeders of waste food and droppings.** (A boom and shovel are good, but a heavy-duty vacuum cleaner is even better.)

Buy feeders that can be easily sterilized. **Clean and disinfect your feeders** by fully immersing them in a 10% bleach solution (1 part household bleach to 9 parts water) for 2–3 minutes. **Allow them to air dry.** Once or twice a month is generally often enough, **but clean weekly if you notice sick birds at your feeders.**

Finally, **spread the word!** Encourage neighbors who also feed birds to **"keep it clean."** Birds normally visit several feeders and can spread diseases as **they go.**

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