



Procedures for Cleaning Bird and Animal Urine, Feces and Nesting Areas

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Birds and animal droppings, urine, nesting (including feathers that may be left behind) and roosting sites can host many diseases. Precautions should be taken to reduce the risk of disease transmission.

Scope

This procedure applies to all buildings, structures, machinery and equipment owned, occupied or operated by the University of Toronto at all campuses and other locations. It applies to all employees and students of the University, to occupants of University buildings and to external organizations who carry out cleaning of bird or animal urine, feces and nesting and roosting sites.

2.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

Supervisors/management/principal investigators/property managers/project manager:

- Develop, document, and implement appropriate measures and precautions by using these procedures or equivalent in conjunction with the Office of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS).
- Ensure that a Job Safety Analysis (JSA) is completed where necessary.
- Ensure controls identified in the JSA and in this procedure are followed.
- Provide equipment, personal protective equipment (PPE), instruction and other resources as identified in the JSA and this procedure.
- Ensure that the JSA and this procedure are readily available to applicable workers.
- Ensure that contractors hired to perform this type of cleaning are provided with a copy of this procedure and will comply with this procedure.

Workers:

- Identify situations where this this procedure or a JSA is needed.
- Review this procedure and JSA prior to beginning the job.
- Follow safety procedures and use equipment and/or PPE as defined in this procedure and JSA.
- Participate in the development of the JSA if requested.
- Bring to the attention of their supervisor any new conditions that may negatively impact the process, or lead to an unsafe work environment.

3.0 PREVENTION

The most effective method is to prevent birds, bats, rodents and other animals from roosting and nesting in the area by sealing entry points into the area and eliminating sources of food. Other forms of pest control such as traps, ultrasonic devices and chemical repellants are available in the market. Consultation with a pest control specialist is recommended.



4.0 PROCEDURES FOR CLEANING

1. Before starting clean-up of the space, ventilate the space by opening the doors and windows for at least 30 minutes to allow fresh air to enter the area. Use an exhaust fan or cross ventilation if possible. Leave the area until the airing out period is finished.
2. After the venting is complete, if there is a potential to contaminate the ventilation inlets or outlets in the space during the cleaning, seal these inlets and outlets before cleaning starts.
3. Wear disposable gloves (e.g. rubber, latex, vinyl), disposable coveralls with head covering, disposable boot covers or rubber boots, half-face respirator with HEPA (high efficiency particulate air) filters and eye goggles.
4. Spray droppings or contaminated materials until it is moist with a bleach solution* (1 part bleach, 9 parts water). Allow this disinfecting solution to soak in for 5 minutes.
5. Shovel or scoop droppings or place contaminated materials into a plastic bag. Use a scrubbing brush or scraper as required.
6. Double bag waste materials.
7. Do not dry sweep or use compressed air to clean feces.
8. Depending on the level of contamination, it may be desirable to HEPA vacuum the surface before applying disinfectant in the next step.
9. Disinfect the surface again using the bleach solution. Thoroughly clean any re-usable PPE, tools and equipment with the bleach solution.
10. Once you have removed and cleaned the gloves, wash hands thoroughly with soap and water.

*When using or mixing chemicals, ensure that the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) is available. Review manufacturer information on the label or SDS before handling.