

BIRD FEEDERS

CLEANING CHECK LIST:



Use Proper Equipment



1

- Wear rubber gloves to avoid any potential contamination.
- Use stiff brushes to ensure a thorough cleaning.

Empty



2

- Throw away any uneaten seed left in the feeder:
 - Especially if it's wet or moldy
- **Note:** scattering seed onto the ground can attract unwanted wildlife or rodents.

Soak



3

- Soak feeders in hot water, using a mild/unscented soap.
- This helps loosen stuck food remnants, bird droppings, and other debris - making it easier to clean.
- Ensure feeder is completely submerged in water.
- Soak for at least 15 minutes.

Clean All Parts



4

- Clean every area of the feeder, *including*:
 - Feeding ports, perches, lids, platforms, and reservoirs.
 - Both inside and outside.
- **Scrub** (using soap & warm water):
 - All surfaces/feeder parts should be scrubbed with a stiff brush in order to remove any & all seed, dirt, or waste.
- Rinse feeders after scrubbing to ensure all debris has been properly removed.

Disinfect



5

- Disinfect using a solution of 1 part bleach to 9 parts water (**1:9**).
 - (Diluted 10% bleach solution)
- Soak feeders in diluted bleach solution for 10 minutes.
- If you don't want to soak feeders in bleach, you can also use a 50:50 (equal parts) solution of white vinegar & hot soapy water.

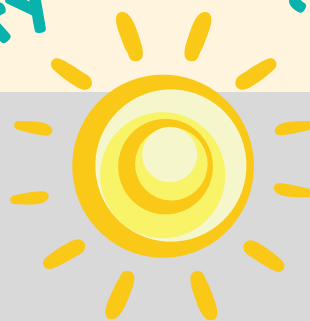
Rinse Thoroughly



6

- Thoroughly rinse to ensure all chemical residue is removed.
- Rinse in clear, clean water.

Dry Completely



7

- Before refilling the feeder with fresh seed, ensure that it is completely dry.
- Keeping feeders in direct sunlight will help break-down any remaining soap or chemicals.
 - Allow feeder to air dry.
- **Note:** Any remaining moisture can lead to mold & mildew:
 - Can cause illness & rotten/unhealthy seed.

Clean Surrounding Area



8

- Be sure to clean-up the surrounding area as well!
 - **Including:** uneaten seeds, hulls, and other waste.
- Keeping the ground beneath feeders clean help keep unwanted wildlife/rodents away.
- **Note:** moldy/spoiled food is unhealthy for birds.



BIRD FEEDER

MAINTENANCE



prevention



Caution

- To ensure healthy bird populations, it's imperative that feeders be kept clean.
 - This helps decrease the spread of sickness & disease among birds.
 - Regularly clean your feeders; even when there are no signs of disease.
- Dirty bird feeders can harbor bacteria (i.e., *Salmonella*), mold, feces, and other disease agents.
- Diseases can create epidemic conditions:
 - Could wipe-out nesting bird colonies if left unattended.



Maintenance



Most Effective Overall Cleaning Method:

Soak & scrub feeders with soap & hot water --> Soak in a diluted bleach solution --> Rinse thoroughly

REGULAR CLEANING:

- Clean feeders at least (2) times a month.
- Feeders need to be cleaned more often when you have:
 - **Popular Feeders:** Depending on the # of birds that visit & how much seed is eaten.
 - Reports of *Salmonella* in the area.
 - Sick birds in your yard.

SURROUNDING AREA:

- Ensure that areas surrounding the bird feeder are kept clean, including:
 - Anywhere birds perch
 - Bird baths
 - Fences

TIPS:

- Choose an easy-to-clean feeder.
- **Wooden Feeders:**
 - More difficult to clean.
 - Absorb oils & debris.
- **Recommended:**
 - Feeders made of metal, recycled plastic, glass, or glazed ceramic.

Hummingbird Feeder:



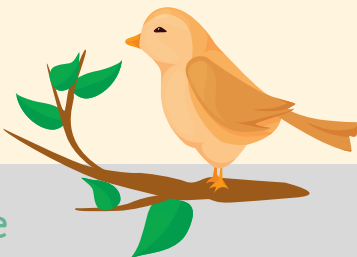
DIRECTIONS:

- Change **sugar-water** every 3-5 days:
 - During hot weather, change more frequently.
- Clean **feeders** at least once a week.
 - Use hot water & a bottle brush; or
 - Disinfect using a diluted bleach solution.

IMPORTANT:

- **Hummingbird & Oriole Feeders:**
 - Each time nectar is refilled, feeders should be cleaned.
- **Cleaning Tips:**
 - Helps prevent mold growth & deadly fermentation.
 - Rinse feeders thoroughly:
 - Before refilling, allow to air dry.
 - Do NOT use: soap or a detergent.

Sick Birds



To Look For

- The birds coming to your feeders are traveling from a plethora of areas:
 - It's uncertain what diseases these birds could be carrying.
- Infected birds can spread diseases to your feeders, other yards, and the wild bird population.
 - *Including:* respiratory & bacterial diseases.

Lethargic Birds

Swollen eyes/Eyelids

Growths near the beak or on the neck

Ruffled/unkept feathers

Difficulty swallowing

Birds that drop seeds