

# Disinfectants that are effective against avian influenza

*Avian influenza (AI) has been detected in Golden Plains Shire. AI is a highly infectious disease affecting many bird species including pet and farmed chickens and can result in significant deaths on poultry farms.*

## CLEANING AND DISINFECTION PRINCIPLES

Following good biosecurity practices and hygiene is essential to protecting poultry and people from avian influenza (AI). Wild birds can carry avian influenza without showing any signs. Biosecurity practices should be focused on separating wild birds from domestic birds, and good hygiene measures as people move between different flocks.

Cleaning and disinfection are important parts of biosecurity. To be effective against the AI virus, the following **two-step process** is recommended.

**Step 1:** Clean poultry housing, boots and equipment thoroughly to remove any organic matter (e.g. soil, mud, faeces) using water (preferably hot) and detergent.

**Step 2:** Apply a chemical disinfectant to cleaned surfaces and leave it on for the required contact time to destroy the virus. Contact times will vary between chemicals and different surfaces i.e. porous surfaces (wood) vs non-porous surfaces (metal).

## DISINFECTANTS FOR AVIAN INFLUENZA VIRUS

Avian influenza virus is a Category A lipid enveloped virus, and it is stable over a pH range of 5.0-8.2.

The following options will be effective in destroying the AI virus on surfaces:

- soapy water or detergent (will strip the fatty envelope and kill the virus)
- acid and alkaline chemicals
- disinfectants, including bleach, chlorine and citric acid.

Whichever product you choose to use must be used as directed by the manufacturer.

Remember that chemicals may be toxic to poultry (and other animals), even in very small doses. Care should be taken to determine the safety of disinfectants prior to using them near poultry, and they should always be stored well away from poultry houses. If using a footbath at the entrance of a poultry enclosure, place it outside the enclosure, in an area where other animals (including pets) cannot access and drink from it.

## DECONTAMINATION OF VEHICLES, ANIMAL HOUSING AND EQUIPMENT

If vehicles, livestock trucks and trailers, animal yards and equipment need to be decontaminated, the following two-step cleaning and disinfection process should also be used.

**Step 1:** Remove all visible organic matter (e.g. faeces, urine, dirt, mud) by washing the surface with water under pressure. When using a cleaning agent/detergent, follow the manufacturer's instructions, in particular the right concentration of cleaning agent/detergent for the amount of soiling/organic matter present. Also, follow personal protective equipment (PPE) recommendations of the manufacturer.

**Step 2:** Apply an effective disinfectant, as directed by the manufacturer. It is wise to ensure that the disinfectant being used will not damage the product being cleaned (e.g. is not corrosive at the dilution rate being used). Follow all safety recommendations of the manufacturer.

## FURTHER ADVICE ON DISINFECTANTS

For advice on chemicals effective against AI virus and their safe use around poultry, contact your veterinarian or the product manufacturer.

## WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

More information on AI and the Golden Plains situation is available on the Agriculture Victoria website:

<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/animal-diseases/poultry-diseases/avian-influenza-bird-flu>

## ACCESSIBILITY

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