



The Bird Rescue Center
of Sonoma County

Bird Feeder Cleaning Instructions:

All feeders should be cleaned and disinfected at least once per week, year-round.

First, rake up spilled seed and debris below your feeders and discard it along with any unused seed in the feeder itself in your compost or waste bin. This reduces the risk of children, domestic animals, or other wildlife coming in contact with potentially contaminated seeds while eliminating a potential food source that will attract rodents.



Next, scrub feeders inside and out with warm, soapy water, then thoroughly rinse with water.

Last, disinfect feeders by soaking them for 10-15 minutes in a warm 9:1 bleach solution before rinsing again with water. Air dry thoroughly before refilling. As an alternative, use the bleach solution in a spray bottle to coat feeders inside and out and let it sit for 10-15 minutes before rinsing.

Helpful Tip:

Keep duplicates of each type of feeder so you can place a fresh one out while the other is being cleaned.

Bird Bath Cleaning Instructions:

All bird baths should be emptied and refilled with fresh water on a daily basis, year-round.

All bird baths should also be cleaned and disinfected once per week following the same procedures as cleaning bird feeders.

Keep Yourself Safe:

- Wear gloves to protect your skin from direct contact with bleach or potential pathogens.
- Wear a mask to prevent accidental ingestion or inhalation of splashback or aerosolized particles.
- Always wash your hands thoroughly with soap and warm water after contact with sick or dead birds and/or dirty feeders and baths.

