

Now Revealed: The Anti-Mess Strategy

If you own a bird, you know. If you are thinking of owning a bird, you'll learn.

Birds make a mess. A BIG mess. A BIG MESSY mess.

But not only in their cages, but also around the cage, on the floor, on the walls, on the play gyms, on the counter... everywhere! And where there are BIG messy messes, there is the need to clean. Not only for your sanity, but to keep your bird healthy.

At *The Crystal Parrot*, we want to help you by giving you some tools to help clean the mess. Here are some time honored traditions on cleaning cages and surrounding areas to control the mess, and keep your bird healthy.

How to clean a bird cage or play stand:

Every day, wipe down the cage and area around the cage using a bird safe cleaner (Presto, Avi-clean) and a scrubby sponge. Get the pellet dust out of the corners, the Veggie Mix off the bars, the poop off the grate. Really give the cage a good look and get the mess out. Clean the perches, and check for sharp edges. Change bottom cage papers or litter. We recommend using black and white newspaper on the bottom of your bird's cage. It is safe, cheap, and easy to change daily.

Weekly you want to do a thorough cleaning of your bird's cage and environment. If your cage comes apart, take it apart and clean every nook and cranny. Use your bird safe cleaner and a scrubby sponge. You may want to invest in a good scrub brush or a tile brush to get into the corners and between the bars. Make sure all the perches and toys are clean and are in good shape. After cleaning the cage completely, spray down the cage with bird safe disinfectant (Pet Focus) and allow to dry completely.

Keep in mind:

Not all cleaners are created equal. Make sure the cleaner you use is bird safe. Birds are very different from dogs and cats, and what may be safe for our mammal pets, may not be safe for our avian pets.

At *The Crystal Parrot*, we recommend using Presto concentrated cleaner made from orange oil as your main cleaner. Use it for cages, walls, floors and other surfaces. It works wonders on floors, windows and glass. You can even use it for cleaning the bathroom without the fumes of some of the other household cleaners.

For even simpler cleaning you can use the Avi-Clean. This enzymatic cleaner is wonderful to make your life easier. To use simply shake the bottle well, spray on the surface to be cleaned, and let sit for 2 minutes. Then you can wipe off poop or dried food with a soft sponge or even a wet paper towel.

To disinfect your cage, only use disinfectants labeled "bird safe." Follow the directions carefully with regards to contact and drying time. A very effective and safe disinfectant is Pet Focus. It kills viruses, molds, and bacteria and is safe for all birds. It does not have strong odor, and will not harm pets or people.

Happy Cleaning
(Don't forget to check for squash under the couch!)

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