

How to dispose of dead birds on your property

Before disposing of a dead bird, please make a report to the Emergency Animal Disease hotline on 1800 675 888.

It's important to note that we do not test every bird or animal that's reported. If the animal is on your property and you've been advised that it won't be sampled, you may choose to dispose of it.

Here's what you need to know to do it safely, and remember – H5 bird flu rarely affects people, and the risk to human health remains low.

Step-by-step process

1. If it's available, put on personal protective equipment (PPE):

- Waterproof disposal gloves, such as kitchen gloves. You can also use an inverted sturdy plastic bag (not a compostable bag) to cover your hands
- Face mask
- Eye protection, such as safety glasses or sunglasses.

If none of these items are available, use a tool such as long-handled tongs or a shovel to move the bird.

2. Carefully put the bird in a leakproof plastic bag, or turn the bag back on itself if you have used that method to cover your hands. Tie the bag securely.

3. Put the bag into a second leakproof bag and tie it securely.

4. Put the bag into your general waste bin. Do not place a dead animal in the FOGO, recycling or green waste bin.

5. Clean up:

- Remove PPE (gloves first, followed by eyewear and your mask last)
- Seal all disposable items in a bag and dispose of them in your general waste bin
- Wash your hands or use an alcohol-based hand rub
- Clean and disinfect non-disposable items (eye protection, shoes, tools, clothes)
- Wash your hands and forearms thoroughly with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand rub.

Important Disclaimer

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