

Guidance

# Bird flu (avian influenza): how to prevent it and stop it spreading

Biosecurity and hygiene standards to keep birds safe from bird flu (avian influenza).

From: [Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs](#) and [Animal and Plant Health Agency](#)

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## If your premises has over 500 birds

There are extra requirements you need to follow to keep your birds and premises safe from disease.

You must separate your premises into 3 different parts:

1. Poultry or captive birds (live birds): in the Lion Code this area is known as the 'specific' area, and in Red Tractor this is a 'defined biosecure area'.
2. Private use: in the Lion Code this area is known as the 'general' area, and in Red Tractor this is a 'defined biosecure area'.
3. Restricted access (biosecure barrier).

## Rules for the live bird part

You must:

- restrict access to essential authorised personnel only
- make sure all bird keepers change their footwear before entering and leaving
- use different coveralls or overalls for each bird area or house
- only allow essential equipment and vehicles to enter
- clean and disinfect the outside of any vehicles, including strawchoppers, forklifts and pallet trolleys (particularly wheels and wheel arches) when entering and leaving
- clean and disinfect equipment that enters or leaves
- keep records of any vehicles and personnel that enter and leave

You must clean and disinfect housing and equipment at the end of a production cycle and when new birds are introduced.

## **Rules for the private part**

You must:

- restrict access to essential personnel only
- carry out full biosecurity practices when entering and leaving
- have a clear boundary between the private part and the live bird part
- hold waste and fallen stock in biosecure facilities in this part, completely separate from the live bird and the restricted access biosecure part
- clean and disinfect the exterior of any vehicles, including fork-lifts and pallet trolleys (particularly wheels and wheel arches) when entering and leaving

Egg producers should:

- make sure the packing, handling and storage of second quality eggs are managed in a biosecure way
- clean and disinfect plastic egg trays before they're used
- keep records of egg production

## **Rules for the restricted access (biosecure barrier) part**

You must:

- restrict access to essential personnel only
- not let any non-essential vehicles enter
- not feed wild game birds within 500m of this part of the premises

All bird keepers must regularly inspect bird housing including roofs, gutters and downpipes for holes and leaks.

Repair any holes or leaks immediately. Water can carry disease.