



# OH&S Bulletin

## PIGEON EXCRETA

Bird excreta may contain various allergic compounds, proteins, microbes etc. which can cause biological infection and can be highly irritating to susceptible people e.g. Asthmatics or people susceptible to hay fever type reactions. In some cases exposure to this dust containing bird excreta may cause severe bronchial restrictions i.e. acute breathing difficulties and may cause Psittacosis (also known as bird fanciers lung). Persons accessing affected areas or those involved in the cleaning of areas containing bird excreta are at risk from exposure to the biological contaminants within the dust. Accordingly, appropriate precautionary measures are recommended.

The cleaning of areas containing excessive amounts of bird excreta should be performed with due consideration to appropriate dust control and personal protective measures. These measures are outlined below:

- Personal protective equipment in the form of long sleeve disposable overalls, gloves and half face (Class P2) respirators should be worn by persons performing the clean up work.
- All protective clothing should be disposed of along with waste at the completion of the job. Protective clothing should not be worn outside the restricted work areas.
- Access to the affected areas should be restricted during the clean up work. The work area should be roped off and sign posted "No Entry". Only personnel wearing the personal protective equipment should enter the restricted area.
- Prior to placing in bags or containers, the waste material should be wet down by spray misting to minimize airborne dust emission during the clean up work. A disinfectant may be used where required.
- Waste material should be placed into clear industrial waste bags or containers. The bags or containers should be sealed for transport out of the building. The sealed containers should then be placed into an industrial waste skip or similar.
- Personnel involved in the clean up work shall adopt the following decontamination procedure when a work break is taken and when the clean up work is completed:
  - Move to the boundary of the work area.
  - Remove coveralls and gloves and place in waste bag while still wearing the respiratory protection.
  - Remove respirator and dispose of in waste bag (or clean if it is a cartridge type).
  - Seal waste bag.
  - Wash hands and face thoroughly as soon as possible.

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Authorised by:

Pat Preston, Manager, CMFEU Environmental & Occupational Health & Safety

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