



Safe Work Practice (SWP)

Name of Task: Remediation of Bird and Rodent Droppings

Department/Unit: Facilities, Maintenance, Custodial Services, Trades, Contractors (NBCC – All Campuses)

Personal Protective Equipment or other required equipment or other safety considerations:

This SWP applies to all employees and contractors who may encounter or remediate bird or rodent droppings.

- This procedure applies primarily to LOW contamination.
- MODERATE and HIGH contamination require additional controls and/or contractor involvement

LOW Contamination (Limited / Incidental)

Description:

- Small, localized amounts
- No accumulation or layering
- No active infestation
- When handled, unlikely to become airborne
- Located in open, well-ventilated areas

Controls:

- Disposable gloves
- Safety glasses (as required)
- Wet cleaning methods
- Access to handwashing facilities

Work Authorization:

- May be performed by trained NBCC employees

MODERATE Contamination (Accumulated / Disturbance Likely)

Description:

- Noticeable accumulation
- Evidence of infestation
- Dry material capable of generating dust
- Work involves disturbance
- Semi-enclosed spaces

Controls:

- Minimum half-face respirator with P100 filters
- Disposable protective clothing
- Eye/face protection
- Wetting and dust suppression
- Restricted access to work area

Work Authorization:

Any document appearing in paper form is uncontrolled and must be compared to the electronic version.

- Performed only by trained, competent, and authorized personnel
- Supervisor must assess risk and determine if contractor is required

HIGH Contamination (Heavy / High Risk)

Description:

- Heavy accumulation or layered deposits
- Nesting material, carcasses, or active infestation
- Easily airborne (dry, friable material)
- Enclosed or poorly ventilated areas (e.g., attics, confined spaces, HVAC systems)

Includes locations such as:

- Enclosed or poorly ventilated areas
- Attics, ceiling spaces, confined spaces
- HVAC systems or ductwork

Work Authorization:

- Must NOT be performed by NBCC employees
- Must be referred to a qualified remediation contractor

Mandatory Escalation Criteria

Regardless of initial classification, escalate to **HIGH contamination** if any of the following are present:

- Involvement of HVAC or air handling systems
- Confined or poorly ventilated spaces
- Visible airborne dust or contamination
- Disturbance of insulation or building materials
- Significant or long-term infestation

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

PPE requirements are determined by contamination level and include:

- Disposable gloves
- Eye/face protection
- Respirator (as required by classification and NBCC Respiratory Protection Program)
- Disposable protective clothing

Special Considerations

- Do not proceed if conditions change or risk increases
- Reassess contamination level if new hazards are identified

Hazards:

- Exposure to airborne contaminants from dried droppings
- Biological hazards (e.g. [Hantavirus](#), [Histoplasmosis](#), [Cryptococcosis](#))
- Respiratory illness from inhalation of spores or dust
- Cross-contamination of occupied spaces
- Secondary hazards (asbestos, lead, confined spaces)

Required Training

Only trained, competent, and authorized personnel may perform this work.

Required training includes:

- Hazard awareness (bird and rodent droppings)

Any document appearing in paper form is uncontrolled and must be compared to the electronic version.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respiratory protection (where required) • Review of applicable SWPs and SDS • Safe cleanup and waste handling procedures
Steps to be taken to complete task safely:	
Planning & Initial Controls:	
1	Identify contamination level before starting work
2	Report initial findings to supervisor
3	Confirm work is suitable for NBCC employees <i>LOW Contamination unless otherwise approved by the supervisor</i>
4	Restrict access to work area as required
Pre-Work Setup:	
5	Ventilate area for a minimum of 30 minutes where feasible
6	Don required PPE
7	Do not dry sweep or vacuum. <i>Droppings must be fully saturated prior to handling to prevent airborne exposure.</i>
Remediation Work:	
8	Saturate droppings using: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1:9 household bleach solution (5–6% sodium hypochlorite), or • Approved disinfectant with Health Canada DIN • Allow minimum 5-minute contact time, or longer if specified in manufacturer’s instructions
9	Remove material using disposable towels
10	Place waste directly into 6 mil polyethylene bags and double-bag securely
11	Perform final cleaning and disinfection of all affected surfaces, tools, and equipment
Post-Work Actions:	
13	Dispose of PPE as contaminated waste
14	Wash hands, face, and exposed skin thoroughly
15	Restore area and verify cleanliness
16	Report any issues or concerns to supervisor
17	Address underlying pest issues to prevent recurrence
<i>If an emergency situation occurs while conducting this task, or there is an equipment malfunction, shut the equipment off immediately and follow the lock out procedure. Report any hazardous situation to your instructor/supervisor immediately.</i>	
Responsibilities, Completion and Review	
<i>Management and workers to ensure all duties performed in accordance with training, established health and safety regulations/guidelines, policies, and procedures (e.g. utilizing personal, protective equipment as per SAFE Work Procedures). Notify Manager or designates (i.e. supervisors) of all occurrences, injuries illnesses or safety and health concerns which are likely to harm themselves, co-workers, or any others who enter the premises.</i>	
Completed by and Date:	Approved by:
Last Reviewed / Revised by and Date: June 2026	Note: This task will be monitored periodically to ensure compliance and effectiveness.

Any document appearing in paper form is uncontrolled and must be compared to the electronic version.

Any document appearing in paper form is uncontrolled and must be compared to the electronic version.