

Bird and Bat Droppings – Cleanup Document

Departments with employees performing this task are required to provide training to all department employees designated to cleanup small amounts of bird or bat droppings. FM Work Control should be contacted at 581-4400 to arrange for a cleanup of large amounts.

Although droppings are usually easier to cleanup when they are dry and crusted, (unless a respirator¹ is used), saturating droppings with water *prior* to removal, must be completed to prevent the debris and potential pathogens from becoming airborne.

The following wet methods may be undertaken for the removal and cleanup of droppings:

1. Apply water to the affected area using a low-velocity mist spray. Using high-pressure and/or a concentrated stream, such as from a hose nozzle, may scatter the droppings before then can be adequately wetted. However, hosing may be used for removing small amounts of recently deposited or wet droppings from sidewalks and pavements.
2. A portable hand-held pressure sprayer/pump sprayer may be used to wet the material.
3. Nonmetallic tools such as plastic scrapers or spatulas and brushes with nylon bristles should be used. Do not use tools that can easily damage building surfaces, such as wire brushes.
4. Do not perform the excrement removal during high traffic times.
5. Double bag the droppings in 3 mil or thicker bags. Close the bag tightly and secure with tape.
6. Dispose of properly. Do not leave in an area where the bag could rupture or be opened.
7. Only qualified persons shall complete these tasks after awareness training has been completed.
8. Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) should be worn. A job hazard assessment including a PPE assessment should be completed for all individuals that will be performing cleanup of small amounts of bird and bat droppings.

Please contact Facilities Management Safety for cleanup of droppings not covered in this guidance document at 481-3066.

Refer to UMaine Safety and Environmental Management Manual Chapter 15: Other Areas of Concern – Resident Bird and Bat Populations, for the complete policy addressing these concerns.

¹ The use of a respirator requires medical approval and respirator fit testing. Please see the UMaine Respiratory Protection Policy located on the SEM Website.