

# BARN WASHING, DISINFECTION AND DOWNTIME



Cleaning the interior of the barn involves several key steps that work together to reduce disease and bacteria load – and each one of these play an important role in breaking the cycle of contamination.

## THESE STEPS INCLUDE:

- » **Dry-cleaning:** The removal of litter and removal of all organic matter, through blowing or brushing (or by water when washing the barn).
- » **Pressure washing with water:** Warm or cold water can be used to perform the pressure wash, although warm water may take less time to effectively wash the barn.
- » **Detergent and/or disinfectant:** Detergents are important to remove soil and organic material from surfaces, and to break down biofilms. Detergents give disinfectants a better opportunity to reach and destroy microorganisms. The disinfection process involves a disinfectant wash or a fumigation.
- » **Downtime:** The downtime allows for the destruction of microorganisms, which could have survived the cleaning process but are susceptible to natural dehydration/desiccation.

To be most effective, the barn cleaning process should take place as soon as the birds have been shipped to provide as much downtime as possible.

Remember to always follow all manufacturer directions for the products you are using. Being thorough in how the barn is cleaned and disinfected is essential as you can use a highly effective product but if not applied correctly (following manufacturer instructions), then the process can be ineffective.

If your flock had a disease challenge, or if you have been recommended by a veterinarian to perform a cleaning and disinfection, check Section 5.5 of the OFFSP manual for a suggested protocol.

## INCREASED FLEXIBILITY FOR WASHING, DISINFECTION AND DOWNTIME

The new version of the CFC OFFSP provides for three options for washing, use of detergent/disinfectant and for downtime. Different options have been provided to allow for different management practices based on the level of disease challenge within the barn.

These three options have been developed to provide farmers more flexibility while still meeting the objectives of the breaking the cycle of contamination.

- » **Option 1** is similar to the current manual (pressure wash the barn and equipment at least annually), with increased flexibility in that a detergent or a disinfectant can be used.
  - The option of using a detergent or a disinfectant is being allowed based on literature reporting common levels of effectiveness.
- » **Option 2** is a pressure wash of the barn and equipment at least annually, while a detergent or a disinfectant need only be used on the feeders, drinkers and equipment. This is to be followed by a 14-day downtime.
  - This option has been developed for those farms that would rather only disinfect the equipment. Using a 14-day downtime replaces the requirement to disinfect the entire barn.
- » **Option 3** involves a dry-clean of the barn and a 14-day downtime after every flock. No washing or detergent/disinfection is required with this option, although manure must be removed from the barn within 72 hours of the birds being shipped. Less than 14 days downtime can occur a maximum of twice in the previous 12 months due to scheduling issues.
  - The 14-day downtime in Option 2 and 3 is based on the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's National Avian On-Farm Biosecurity Standard that recommends a 14-day downtime when no other interventions are used.

Options 2 and 3 can only be used based on the health status of previous flocks and when the barn is not experiencing a disease/production challenge. The decision to use Option 2 or 3 is based off of your assessment of the performance of the previous flocks.

## CALCULATING DOWNTIME

Downtime is defined as the time from when the previous flock is shipped through to the placement of the subsequent flock. As an example, given the requirement for a 14-day downtime, a barn where the last flock was shipped on May 3<sup>rd</sup> would be in a position to place a new flock as of May 17<sup>th</sup>.

## SUMMARY OF WASHING, DISINFECTION AND DOWNTIME OPTIONS – MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

	<b>Step 1:</b> Pressure Washing	<b>Step 2:</b> Use of detergent and/or disinfectant	<b>Step 3:</b> Downtime
<b>Option 1</b>	MD Pressure wash the barn* and equipment with water at least once per year	MD Detergent and/or disinfect the barn* and equipment at least once per year	N/A
<b>Option 2</b>	MD Pressure wash the barn* and equipment with water at least once per year	MD Detergent and/or disinfect the feeders, drinkers and equipment at least once per year	MD 14-day downtime at least once per year
<b>Option 3</b>	N/A	N/A	14-day downtime after every flock**

*Note: Options 2 and 3 can only be used based on the health status of previous flocks and when the barn is not experiencing a disease/production challenge.*

\* The barn includes the walls, floors, feeders, drinkers, ceilings, fans, drains, any other equipment (e.g., hoppers, feeding chains etc., including any catching equipment and barn boots).

\*\* To qualify, it is recommended that manure be removed from the barn within 48 hours of the birds being shipped but that it not exceed 72 hours after shipment (i.e., the maximum time period is 72 hours). Also, given that schedule changes can occur (i.e., delivery of chicks or shipment dates), a downtime of less than 14-days can occur a maximum of 2 times in the previous 12 months. If this is greater than 2 times in the previous 12 months, then Option 3 cannot be used.

More information can be found in the OFFSP manual.

