



## ***Cleaning & Maintaining Your Bird Feeder***

***For the sake of the birds, please keep your feeders clean!*** We recommend cleaning your feeder once a month in winter and more often in hot and humid weather. Scheduled cleanings provide a healthy environment for the birds, and you'll enjoy watching and hearing them at your feeders.

Bacteria and disease can spread through bird droppings on feeders and through leftover seed and hulls below the feeder. Damp seed and debris can cultivate a fungus.

- Throw out any wet or moldy food and disinfect any containers or scoops. If you notice that the seed in the feeder is not being eaten, check to see if it has become moldy or wet from rain.
- Rake, shovel, or shop vac seed debris from beneath the feeders on a regular basis to prevent the growth of mold, bacteria, and to deter rodents.
- Overcrowding at feeders is a key factor in spreading disease. Provide additional feeders to counteract this effect.
- Seed should be stored in a cool, dry place using a sealed container that rodents cannot enter. Mice can spread some bird diseases without being affected themselves.

### **Cleaning UV Stabilized Polycarbonate (plastic) Components**

1. Let the birds empty the feeder as far as they can. Shake out any remaining seeds and chaff.
2. Disassemble the feeder. Instructions for each model can be located on our website under the "support" tab.
3. Carefully remove any loose surface debris with a wet sponge. Using a dry sponge will scratch the surface.
4. Use a soft brush (non-abrasive) or soft cloth, and a solution of a mild hand dishwashing detergent and warm water to remove dust, salt and other deposits.
5. We recommend disinfecting the polycarbonate components of your feeder using a 50/50 solution of white vinegar and warm water, rinse thoroughly.
6. Dry all components **completely** before reassembly, and filling the feeder with seed.

### **Cleaning Powder Coated or Plated (metal) Components**

*Proper cleaning will help protect the powder coated finish from the effects of water, sun, and pollution. Maintaining the finish on powder coated components is essential to protecting your investment. Powder coating is one of the most durable, protective coatings available for metal surfaces, but proper care will help prolong the finish. Over time, powder coated finishes exposed to the elements may show signs of weathering such as reduced gloss, chalking and slight color loss. Consistent, scheduled cleanings will help remove dirt, grime and other surface buildup that may be harmful to the powder coated finish.*

1. Carefully remove any loose surface debris with a wet sponge. Using a dry sponge will scratch the surface.
2. Use a soft brush (non-abrasive) or soft cloth, and a solution of a mild hand dishwashing detergent and warm water to remove dust, salt and other deposits.
3. Do **not** use a solution of white vinegar and water on the powder coated or plated metal components as this may damage the finish.
4. Dry all components **completely** before reassembly and filling the feeder with seed.
5. **Powder coated components only!** Extra protection may be required to prolong the finish, especially in harsh environments. Use a light coat of high grade, nonabrasive car wax containing UV blocker and/or UV inhibitors on the surfaces which are only exposed to the elements. Wipe off any residual wax as this may cause permanent staining from the heat of the sun.