

## Guidelines on Cleaning and Disinfection for Pigeon Transporters

Pigeon paramyxovirus, *Salmonella* and other infectious agents can survive for many months in droppings, therefore it is very important that all transport equipment and vehicles are cleaned and disinfected regularly, especially between seasons. The following guidelines should be applied to any truck, trailer, basket or crate that is **used** to transport pigeons.

- Choose a location that will avoid chemicals entering surface water drains or water courses, and preferably with a concrete surface.

### Pigeon transport truck or trailer:

1. Remove any equipment (crates, baskets, covers etc.) from the trailer for separate cleaning.
2. Remove any solid debris, droppings and unused food from the outside and inside of the truck or trailer, starting from the top and working down, by scraping, then brushing. Pay special attention to the racking and internal floor.
  - Droppings may contain high levels of infective material, and should be disposed of safely.
3. Apply **detergent\*** using a knapsack sprayer or pressure washer, at low pressure to avoid the spread of potentially infective material (approximately 500psi or 35bars).
4. Soak all external and internal surfaces of the truck/trailer, starting from the top and working down. Caked soiling should be brushed if necessary to help remove it.
5. Allow at least **10 minutes** contact time for the detergent to penetrate and loosen dirt.
6. **Rinse at high pressure** with clean water.
7. Check all surfaces are visibly clean, before disinfecting. For best results allow surfaces to dry before disinfecting, if possible.
8. Use an **approved disinfectant\*\***. The approved disinfectant must be in date, be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and be properly stored.
9. Apply the disinfectant with a knapsack sprayer or a pressure washer at low pressure. Allow contact for at least the **recommended contact time** for the disinfectant. The disinfectant should be rinsed off after the recommended contact time if it affects untreated metals or damaged galvanised metals (please check the label).
10. Outside of truck or trailer: Start at the top and work down each side. Ensure both sides of side covers are disinfected.
11. Inside the truck or trailer: Disinfect the walls, racking and floor of the trailer.

12. Truck cab:

- Take all removable items out of the **cab** of the truck including the floor mats, clothing etc. Use a dustpan and brush to remove any debris from inside the cab and dispose of it into a refuse sack.
- Use a soft hand brush and a bucket of detergent to clean the cab floor, floor mats and foot pedals. Rinse. Use a clean cloth soaked in a solution of disinfectant at the recommended dilution rate to disinfect the cab floor, floor mats and foot pedals.
- Ensure that all items packed back into the cab are clean.

13. Park the truck or trailer on a slope away from the wash area, to drain and dry.

14. Once the truck or trailer is removed from the wash area, wash down the concrete surface with **detergent\*** (ensure that cleaned and disinfected vehicles do not become re-contaminated when using pressure washers to clean the wash area or other vehicles).

15. Clean and disinfect waterproof overalls and boots and the cleaning equipment.

**Crates and Baskets:**

All crates and baskets (both personal and club-owned) should also be regularly cleaned with detergent and then disinfected using an **approved disinfectant\*\***.

1. Crates/baskets should be cleaned by removing droppings and unused food, then scraping any caked soiling. It is very important to remove and dispose of all dried in droppings and feed, as they may contain high levels of infective material.
2. Apply **detergent\*** using a knapsack sprayer or similar low pressure application method.
3. Soak all external and internal surfaces of the crate and allow at least **10 minutes** contact time for the detergent to penetrate and loosen dirt.
4. Rinse at high pressure with clean water and ensure all surfaces are visibly clean, before disinfecting.
5. For best results allow the crates/baskets to dry before disinfection, if possible.
6. Use an **approved disinfectant\*\*** and apply with a knapsack sprayer or similar. Allow contact for at least the **recommended contact time** for the disinfectant. The disinfectant should be rinsed off after the recommended contact time if it affects untreated metals or damaged galvanised metals.

\***Detergent** does not kill Pigeon paramyxovirus. Its purpose is to loosen and remove dirt. Examples include washing-up liquid, laundry detergent and car/truck wash detergents.

\*\*A **full list of approved disinfectants and their dilution rates** can be found on the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine's website at:

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/animalhealthwelfare/animalwelfare/ApproveddisinfectantsMay11.pdf>

The **dilution rate** is the number of mls of water to be added to one part (1g or 1ml) of the preparation.

**Examples:**

The dilution rate for **Jeyes fluid** is **30**, therefore for every 1ml of Jeyes fluid, add 30mls of water.

- 10mls of Jeyes fluid, add 300mls water
- 100mls Jeyes fluid, add 3000mls (3litres) water
- 1 litre Jeyes fluid, add 30 litres water

The dilution rate for **Osmodex** is **150**, therefore for every 1ml of Osmodex, add 150mls of water.

- 10mls of Osmodex, add 1500mls (1.5 litres) water
- 100mls Osmodex, add 15000mls (15 litres) water
- 1 litre Osmodex, add 150 litres water