

**KIWICARE®**

# Technical Sheet

## 1–2–3 Poultry Mite Control

How to Control Chicken Mites



[www.kiwicare.co.nz](http://www.kiwicare.co.nz)

## About Poultry Mites

There are several different species of mite that will infest poultry houses and the feathers of chickens (or other birds). In New Zealand it is most commonly the red poultry mite that is the cause of problems.

They feed on the blood of the chickens. Some live on the chickens and others spend most time in the fabric of the poultry house and emerge to feed on the chickens at certain times.

The poultry mite (*Dermanyssus gallinae*) can be found on any bird and can affect humans. Red mites have been known to transmit diseases as well as causing dermatitis and mange. They can be transmitted to poultry from rodents and wild birds, so maintaining good pest control in and around your coop is important. Eliminating rats, mice and sparrows will go a long way to keeping your hen house mite free. Red mites only spend part of their lives on their poultry hosts. Most of the time they live in cracks and crevices in the poultry housing and move onto roosting birds at night to feed. Red mites can survive without poultry for four or more weeks. When hidden in cracks, they are very resistant to desiccation – so cleaning out and leaving a house empty will not prevent mites reappearing when birds are reintroduced.

Smooth, flat surfaces in your coop help reduce populations by limiting hiding places. Avoid coops and houses built out of unfinished timbers and tongue and groove timbers. Easy to clean materials such as plastic make it easier to keep control of mites.

Mites feed mainly on the blood of birds, but also on feathers, skin or scales. After feeding the mites will leave the birds and return to hide in cracks and crevices in the poultry housing; there they lay their eggs. Mites are usually active at night once birds have settled down on perches. The birds are easy targets as they will not leave the safety of the perch in the dark for fear of injury.

The tiny mites vary in appearance, depending on when they last fed and at what stage they are in their lifecycle they are in. A tell-tale 'grey residue' around crevices is evidence of mite faeces, this can be seen during the day. If looking during the day a coop or house can appear mite free to the untrained eye. So the best time to examine a house is at night when the mites can often be seen with the aid of a torch, both on and off the bird.



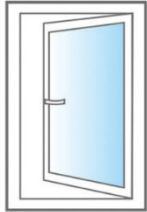


# Kiwicare 1-2-3 Poultry Mite Control

Smooth surfaces without cracks and crevices help keep populations down. Avoid hen houses made from rough sawn timbers; especially tongue and groove styled timbers. Smooth surfaces, like plastic or galvanised iron are easy to clean and keep free of mites.

As the mites do not live on the birds, but in the cracks and crevices of the hen house, it is important to keep the house clean.

## Directions

<p><b>1. Treat the Birds</b> If birds are affected by mites contact your veterinarian for advice and products for application to the birds. Note: only veterinary products registered for use on birds for control of mites should be used.</p>	
<p><b>2. Treat the Coop</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove the hens from the house and clean it out thoroughly, including removing and disposing of bedding and litter.</li> <li>Then spray the house, inside and outside with <b><u>SORTED Moss &amp; Mould</u></b>. Let the house dry completely.</li> <li>Then spray the house, inside and outside with <b><u>NO Spiders Total Protection*</u></b>. Pay attention to cracks and crevices. Let the house dry completely. Install new clean bedding and litter and provide the birds with a dust bath. The birds can now be returned to their house.</li> <li>Carry out this treatment regularly at 3-month intervals or as necessary.</li> <li>The life-cycle of the mites takes only 10 days so check the birds and the house regularly (every 1-2 weeks) so that you can treat in the early stages of infestation and change bird bedding and litter monthly.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>3. Ventilate and Dry</b> Keep the poultry house dry by good ventilation. Mites prefer humidity above 60%. Ensure birds have a dust bowl so they can carry out their natural parasite removal dust bath.</p>	

*\*NO Spiders Total Solution is more effective against mites than **NO Bugs Super** because mites are closely related to spiders and the oil emulsion formulation contacts the tiny mites more effectively.*

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- See [kiwicare.co.nz](http://kiwicare.co.nz) for more information on control of poultry mite and other pests.

## Caution

- Keep all children and animals out of the area being treated during treatment and until all sprays have dried completely.

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For information, advice and our interactive  
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