

HVAC Personnel Exposure to Bird and Bat Droppings

It is not unusual for the HVAC service worker to enter work environments that are contaminated with bird or bat droppings. Exposure comes from breathing dust. These environments can be found in attics, crawlspaces, or outbuildings where birds or bats have created a feeding or nesting area.

Health Concerns:

Flu-like symptoms 3 to 10 days after exposure.

Generally mild, but in persons with pre-existing disease, can be serious.

Diseases caused by bird
or bat droppings

Histoplasmosis
Cryptococcosis
Psittacosis



Preventing Employee Exposure:

If possible, do not allow animals to congregate and create the problem.

Wear the following personal protective equipment:

- N-95 respirator
- Safety glasses
- Nonslip shoe covers
- Coverall with hood
- Gloves

Entering and Working in a Contaminated Work Area:

If possible, wet the surface to reduce dust.

Remove contaminated PPE immediately and place in sealed plastic bag for disposal. Do not track through occupied areas or wear in vehicle.