



Adoption Supplies for Birds

Adding a bird to your home is an exciting time. This basic supply list will help you prepare for your new family member.

BASIC SUPPLIES

Before bringing a bird home, we recommend setting up your home with the right supplies to help them settle in.

Here are some things we recommend gathering before you adopt:

- Enclosure (choose the largest you can)
- Enclosure liners (you can also use newspaper)
- Towel or blanket to cover the enclosure
- Perches
- Chewing outlets, like cuttlebones and mineral blocks
- Nesting materials if your bird's species nests
- Toys
- Water and food containers (give each bird their own)
- Food
- Carrier for travel and vet visits

HEALTH AND CARE SUPPLIES

- **UV light** – Birds need both UVA and UVB (types of ultraviolet radiation) exposure to stay healthy.
 - *Note: Most windows filter out UVA and UVB, so placing their enclosure near a window likely won't meet this need and can make them overheat.*
- **Spray bottle (use the mist setting), bird bath or bird fountain** – Birds care for their feathers and bathe themselves. They may enjoy a gentle mist from a spray bottle or stepping into a shallow pool of water. You can also offer wet leafy greens on a plate or dish for them to walk in.



OPTIONAL SUPPLIES

- **Floor protector** – Cleaning around the enclosure may be easier if you place a washable floor mat, silicone mat, or disposable items like newspaper or pee pads underneath.
- **Seed catcher** – Often called a seed skirt or food guard, this fits around the bottom of the enclosure to keep seed husks inside and make cleaning easier.

OTHER THINGS TO DO

- Find an avian vet (a veterinary specializing in bird health) – You can search in ABVMA's [directory](#) for one near you.
- Find a suitable location for their enclosure in your home.
- Check your home for hazards – Some plants are poisonous to birds, and birds have sensitive respiratory systems. Things like fumes from Teflon pans, essential oils, diffusers, scent boosters, cleaning products, and cigarette or vape smoke can harm birds.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

You can read EHS' guides to learn more about bird housing and enrichment:

- [Budgie and Cockatiel Housing](#)
- [Basics of Bird Enrichment](#)

You can also visit the Association of Avian Veterinarians website at www.aav.org to learn more about bird care.

Find more free guides in our Pet Care Resource Hub at edmontonhumanesociety.com