

THE NEST GUARD STORY

Nest Guards can be used for a variety of bird breeds where there is a moisture or ammonia problem in the nest box. The breathable pads contain zeolite, which is a negatively charged, volcanic granule that can attract and store positive particles such as ammonia, a chemical that can be a serious problem in some nest boxes, and may have been the cause of many young birds suddenly dying in the nest. Ammonia is harmful to the birds' respiratory system & can cause unnecessary stress and weight loss while still in the nest. Ammonia also increases bacterial and fungal generation.

I have been using nest guards in my Gouldians nest boxes for the past 2 seasons and this year successfully fledged 64 babies without any deaths in the nest. Mould was almost non-existent in the boxes with the nest guards in them and the nesting material was quite dry. One box that didn't have a pad in it was black with mould and the nesting material was still damp and soggy.



Lorikeet breeders have been impressed with the zeolite pads, as they eliminate the sloppy mess that the young lorries are usually paddling in. Some breeders have said that they used to have to clean out the nest box and clean the babies every couple of days, but the nest guards have more than halved the time spent cleaning out boxes, and kept the environment inside the box a lot more hygienic.

With finches, place a pad in a clean nest box and cover with nesting material. For parrots and lorries 1 or 2 pads can be placed in boxes or logs under wood shavings or parrot nesting material. One pad will usually last one season for finches, but nest boxes should be cleaned and pads replaced before the parents go down again if using with lorikeets or parrots. Some parrots will tear the pads to pieces but the zeolite will still do its job, but makes cleaning out the box a bit more time consuming.

Other uses:

- Nest Guards are quite useful for sick and injured birds, as the pads can be heated in the micro wave oven and stay warm for a long time, giving comfort to the hospitalised bird.
- Nest Guard pads can be placed in your bulk seed containers to adsorb moisture and prevent any fungal growth.
- Zeolite can be used on aviary floors and bottom of breeding cages as it is a lot easier to use, and stays dryer than sand. Zeolite results in a healthier environment for your birds and cuts down the time spent cleaning.