

## Bird Cage Dos and Don'ts

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

# HOUSING TIPS

Are you buying a bird, but need to find a home for her first? Or, are you simply upgrading your bird's current cage or looking for a change? Either way, you're looking in the right place. Each cage we sell is selected by veterinarians with your bird's comfort,

safety, health, and happiness in mind. We offer cages from leading manufacturers – names you can trust – in an extensive selection of color and style. Choose from [playtops](#), [dometops](#), [aviaries](#), [tabletop](#) cages, and sleep-only cages. You're sure to find a style that best fits the activity level and personality of your bird. Plus, we offer many colors to complement your home. From vintage to modern, from powder-coated to stainless steel, you can find a cage that's just right for both you and your bird.



Whichever [cage](#) you decide on, you can trust that you're making a sound decision when you buy from Drs. Foster and Smith. But, just in case you're still unsure of which cage to buy, keep these following tips in mind:

**Do** buy the [biggest](#) cage you can afford – the bigger the better. Birds need exercise; room to play, climb, and even fly. Without exercise, they can develop dangerous health problems, and without a cage that's big enough for your bird to be active, your bird is at serious risk.

**Don't** be cheap. A cage is where your bird will spend the majority of her time, and it greatly affects her quality of life. It's the most important item you will buy for your bird, and it will likely last your bird's entire life. If you still can't fathom paying an extra hundred dollars or more for the larger cage, think of it this way: If your bird lives for 10 years and the cage costs \$500, that only costs you \$50 a year. You'll spend more than that a year on food, and probably even toys, for your bird. Plus, some birds can live much longer than 10 years. So, the initial investment really pays off in the long run.

**Do** consider buying a cage with [wheels](#). Then, you can easily move the cage from room to room. Doing so will provide your bird with a welcome change in scenery and can help prevent boredom from being stuck in the same surroundings day after day. When the weather permits, you can even move the cage outside for an extra special treat for your bird.

**Don't** buy a cage with bar spacing that's too large for your bird. If the cage bars are too far apart, your bird could get her head



stuck in between. Safety should come first when buying a bird cage.

**Do** choose a cage that's easy to [clean](#) and maintain. Features like a slide-out grill, pull-out tray, [seed skirt](#), large front access door, and outside-access feed doors make cage cleaning and maintenance quicker, so you can spend more time with your feathered friend.

**Don't** forget that we have a vast selection of [aviaries and cages](#) to choose from. We're sure you'll find one that's right for your bird.

**Do** be picky about style. This cage will become a permanent fixture in your home. But, if you think it's an eyesore, you'll likely have buyer's remorse. So, pick out a style or color that blends with the décor of the room it will be located in.



Whatever cage you decide to purchase, it needs to be a place of retreat and outfitted to ensure your bird's stress-free, comfortable living by providing:

- **A sense of security:** A bird that feels threatened is a bird that lives with too much stress. The cage needs to take away the bird's need to always think of himself as being vulnerable to predators. Place the cage in an area that gives your bird a feeling of protection, not in an area where he feels on display.
- **An inner place of escape:** If your bird spots a predator through a window, it can frighten him and give him reason to want to hide within his cage. A [bird tent](#) or another style of complete enclosure can provide an extra measure of protection and make him feel safe.
- **Solitude from noise and light intruders:** Both of these sensory stimuli can keep your bird awake when he should be sleeping. Use [cage covers](#) and judicious placement of the cage to ensure that your bird enjoys uninterrupted sleep.
- **A place of exercise:** In-cage exercise is important, so having room for a [swing](#) or a [ladder](#) is important so that he can exercise his leg muscles and blow off steam.
- **Relief from boredom:** Your bird's natural instincts of preening, chewing and shredding need to be met through the availability of appropriate [toys](#).

### Related Articles

- [Bird Cage Buyer's Guide: Features, Styles, and Sizes](#)
- [Create an Ideal Cage Environment for Your Bird](#)
- [Bird Cages. How to Choose](#)