



SteraMist™ Delivers Successful Results on Service Job with Unusual and Complicated Scope of Work

Job: 2,200 Square Foot; 25,000 Cubic Feet; 3 Gallons of BIT™ Solution
Labor: Total 4 Hours

The charm of country life, with lush green fields and historic farmhouses, attracts more than just people looking to escape from urban settings and city life. A variety of rodents and small mammals, including bats, tend to also be attracted to these settings, especially during cold months when an old home offers a warm spot. With these animals moving in, so does the risk of potential pathogens.

Recently, an owner of a 100+ year old farmhouse in Virginia faced this threat when the farmhouse became overrun by a colony of bats in their attic. Left unchecked for years, this colony produced a large amount of guano (bat feces) that began dropping from the attic to other levels of their home, creating a risk throughout the house.

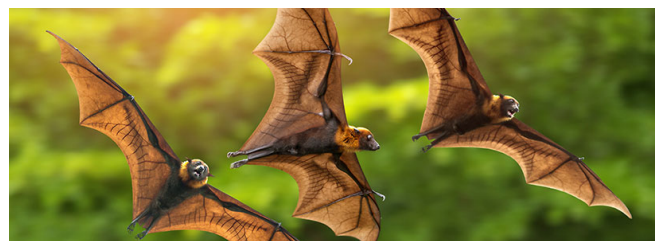
The main concern with bat guano is Histoplasmosis, which is a spore from a fungus. According to the Mayo Clinic, Histoplasmosis may be contracted by farmers, landscapers, infants, and those with compromised immune systems. Even though treatments exist, it is imperative that the source of the risk associated with this spore is removed. In this case, the homeowner filed a claim with their insurance company to conduct the necessary treatment to get rid of Histoplasmosis.

Through their national partnership with the homeowner's insurance, ServPro of Roanoke was assigned to this "highflying" project and got right to work.

ServPro of Roanoke initiated this service job by stripping the walls to the frame and dry ice blasting the guano, allowing it to be safely moved out of the house without further environmental contamination.

ServPro of Roanoke, a TOMI™ Service Network (TSN) provider, used the SteraMist™ Environment System to fight the spores that could continue to contaminate the space. SteraMist™ is an automated complete room fogging environment system using the TOMI™ patented and EPA registered BIT™ Solution. This application creates a visible cloud of Ionized Hydrogen Peroxide (iHP™), which relies on the power of the hydroxyl radical to spread into nook and crannies of spaces without the use of fans or other propellants while still delivering uniform disinfection/decontamination.

Kevin Lancaster, ServPro of Roanoke's Vice President of Operations who holds three master certifications with the IICRC and almost 30 year's industry experience, led this remediation project. He shared, "As a last step, we decided to fog both the upstairs and downstairs over the course of two days. Between the two days, the Environment System required minimum labor to operate taking about four hours total. With the home not being inhabited during the restoration process, we set up general containment and made the homeowners aware this treatment was taking place in the case they stopped in. Using about 2-3 Gallons in the open 25,000 cubic feet, we felt we hit everywhere and trusted the equipment. Working in this industry for 20+ years, the results surprised me. I've found when an industrial hygienist calls you urgently asking, 'What did you do?' It usually doesn't end well, but when our hygienist called and asked that same question, I was confident that SteraMist™ had achieved a complete kill."



Greg Whitt, Environmental Hygienist of Hurt and Profitt, offered his perspective on the results of the treatment job. “This claim was in a word “complicated”, from the scope of the structure and the scope of gross contaminants. Contamination was rampant as the historical construction led to uninhibited spread of the guano. This created red flags throughout the structure even on the floor joists. Upon this initial walk through, I worked with ServPro Roanoke and developed a protocol, which included the iHP™ fogging via the SteraMist™ Environment System. Upon completion of the successful optical cleaning I pulled 4 to 5 samples. Some had no growth, while a few samples had low growth of common environmental bacteria, which could have entered the space through containment. The remediation was successful, and the iHP™ fogging was an integral component.”

Conclusion:

From inception to completion, the need to bring a family back home inspired all involved to use the latest technology to achieve the best results. SteraMist™ was at the top of the list.