

## Checklist against red mite in layers

N.B. Yes = Yes, correct

**1. Is vermin control outside the poultry house carried out by a professional organization?**

Yes →  
No ↓

Recommendation: Hire a professional organization for vermin control. The professionals of such organisations have the expertise, skill and adequate equipment to perform the job.

**2. Are there any stacks etc. alongside the house?**

No →  
Yes ↓

Recommendation: Remove any objects stored there. In and below stored objects red mites and vermin can hide. From these hiding places they can easily use openings to enter the house.

**3. Is there a 2-m wide strip along the house that is free of vegetation?**

Yes →  
No ↓

Recommendation: Keep a 2-m wide strip free of vegetation (shrubs, plants, trees). Vegetation can be a hiding place for red mites and vermin. Vegetation can contain birds' nests. From the vegetation red mites and vermin can easily get into the house.

**Right!**

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**4. Is there a gravel or paved strip immediately alongside the house?**

Yes →  
No ↓

Recommendation: Keep a gravel or paved strip alongside the house instead of grass, stored objects or vegetation. Gravel or paving does not make a hospitable place for red mites.

**5. Is the poultry house bird-tight?**

Yes →  
No ↓

Recommendation: Make the house bird-tight. Wild birds can carry red mites. If birds can fly into the house, the red mite may be introduced there. Also pay attention to openings near fans.

**6. Are the outside doors provided with door springs?**

Yes →  
No ↓

Recommendation: Place door springs on each outside door. The door then closes automatically, keeping (domestic) animals out, that might bring red mites into the house.

**Right!**

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**7. Is there any accommodation standing or hanging (including outside runs) for hobby poultry/birds immediately next to the house?**

Yes ↓

No →

Recommendation: Remove this accommodation and/or runs, including nesting boxes. Red mites may hide there and even reproduce. With the location next to the house, red mites can easily get into the house using the wind or by themselves.

**8. Are the spaces below the corrugated roof sheeting covered or filled?**

No ↓

Yes →

Recommendation: Fill the spaces below the roof sheeting. This is to prevent birds nesting below the roof. Red mites would move from birds' nests to the animals in the house.

**Right!**

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**9. Do you use only dry and clean litter?**

No ↓

Yes →

Recommendation: Only use dry and clean litter in the poultry house. Clean and dry litter is less popular as a hiding place for red mites.

**10. Are the members of the set-up group wearing clean work clothing and have they taken a shower before coming to the farm?**

No ↓

Yes →

Recommendation: As the set-up-groups come from various farms and consequently can carry red mites, the set-up group is preferably received on the farm after they have taken a shower. On the farm, clean work clothing shall be provided to prevent red mites to be brought in.

**11. Do you demand from your rearing farm that clean containers and crates are used to transport the hens?**

No ↓

Yes →

Recommendation: Demand that your rearing farm uses clean crates and containers for the transport of hens. Red mites may hide in and on crates and containers that have not been properly cleaned. This can create the danger of red mites being brought to your farm.

**Right!**

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## Checklist against red mite in layers

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**12. Do you have in each house flock-specific tools such as brooms and other equipment, in which red mite can easily hide?**

No



Yes →

Recommendation: Prevent the introduction of red mites by not allowing materials in which this vermin can hide, to leave the house to which they belong. Take care that these materials are available in each house. Examples are brooms, squeegees and brushes.

**13. Do you clean tools that can easily contain red mites, at least before starting a new batch of hens, but also in the course of the batch?**

No



Yes →

Recommendation: Clean tools that can easily contain red mites before starting a new batch of hens as well as several times in the course of the batch, by blowing out and/or disinfecting.

**14. Have the egg containers and pallets cleaned and disinfected by the packing station?**

No



Yes →

Recommendation: Ensure that the containers and pallets have been cleaned and disinfected before they arrive on the farm. Because these go from one farm to the other, there is a major risk that the containers/pallets contain red mites. Containers and pallets offer excellent hiding places

**Right**

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## Checklist against red mite in layers

**15. Do you repeatedly remove egg rests?**

Yes →

No



Recommendation: Red mite can be distributed through the house by eggs, egg rests and egg belts. Therefore, frequently remove egg rests.

**16. Is the carcass dump located alongside the poultry house?**

Yes



No →

Recommendation: Red mites that are hidden on dead animals may enter the house through the carcass dump. Therefore, do not place the carcass dump alongside the house or provide for a silica barrier between carcass dumps and poultry house.

**Right!**

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## Checklist against red mite in layers

17. Do you remove dead animals on a daily basis?

No ↓ Yes →

Recommendation: Remove dead birds every day, as dead bodies are excellent hiding places for red mites.

18. Do you bring dead animals to the carcass dump in a bucket or clean plastic bag?

No ↓ Yes →

Recommendation: Dead animals that stay in the house are excellent hiding places for red mites. When these dead birds are removed, red mites may fall out of these dead bodies and spread the infestation throughout the house.

19. When you allow visitors to your farm, do they take a shower and wear clean work clothing and hairnets?

No ↓ Yes →

Recommendation: Visitors and outside staff, if been in contact with red mites, can bring red mites which can get to various places inside the house. Be aware that visitors have taken a shower and wear clean work clothing and hairnets. To prevent contamination between houses, this should be done before entering another house.

**Right!**

## Checklist against red mite in layers

20. The poultry farmer or his employees, before entering the farm or poultry house, do they take a shower and do they wear clean work clothing and a hairnet?

No ↓ Yes →

Recommendation: Poultry farmers and employees can bring red mites in from outside, because red mites can make use of people to be spread. These people get into the entire poultry house. Therefore, be sure that the farmer and his employees have taken a shower and wear clean work clothing and a hairnet. To prevent contamination between houses, this should be done also when entering another house.

21. Do the farmer and employees change outerwear before entering another poultry house?

No ↓ Yes →

Recommendation: The farmer and employees will touch hens and/or the system and consequently can get contaminated with red mites and bring these into other houses. Therefore, change outerwear before entering another house.

**Right!**

## Checklist against red mite in layers

**22. Have the catchers taken a shower and do they wear clean work clothing before they enter the poultry house?**

No ↓ Yes →

Recommendation: Visitors and external staff (including catchers) may, if recently been in contact with red mites, carry these parasites, which then can be introduced into several locations inside the house. Therefore, ensure that visitors have taken a shower and wear clean work clothing and hairnets.

**23. Have the containers and crates been cleaned and disinfected on the farm beforehand?**

No ↓ Yes →

Recommendation: Ensure that containers and crates have been cleaned and disinfected before they arrive on the farm. Because these go from one farm to the other, there is a great risk that the containers/pallets contain red mites. Containers and pallets offer excellent hiding places.

**Right!**

## Brief checklist against red mite in pullets before transport to the farm

**1. Is vermin control outside the house carried out by a professional organization**

No ↓ Yes →

Recommendation: Hire a professional organization to carry out vermin control. The professionals of such organizations have the expertise, skill and adequate equipment to perform the job.

**2. Has the light been put on one hour before the catchers take on their job?**

No ↓ Yes →

Recommendation: Put on the light one hour before the catchers start with their job. Many red mites will then abandon the animal for a hiding place in the house. In this way, the hens will carry less red mites when they are moved.

**3. Do you use only clean crates and containers for the transport of pullets?**

No ↓ Yes →

Recommendation: Only use clean crates and containers for the transport of hens. Red mites may hide in and on crates and containers that have not been properly cleaned. Uncleaned crates or containers entail the risk that a house that was made free of red mites, is re-infested

**Right!**