

# It's a Dirty Job,

But Someone Has to Do It

## Winterizing Martin Housing

### When?

In the Fall, after martins have migrated from your area

### Why?

Cleaning removes parasites from old nesting material and storing housing protects it from the elements.

## Clean

- Scrape out cavities and nest trays
- Scrub inside and out with 10% bleach solution (1 pt bleach:9 pts water) and rinse well
- Dry well before covering

## Maintain

- Check cables, ropes & pulleys for signs of wear, replace if needed
- Oil pulleys, winches & poles to make sure parts move smoothly
- Touch up paint or sand and preserve natural gourds if needed

## Cover/Store

- Store housing indoors if possible or use a house cover
- Lower housing and block cavities to prevent other species from nesting
- Remove and store predator guards

## Assess

Time to expand? If your colony is filled to 75% capacity and you can manage a larger colony, consider adding more housing

## Cleaning Supply List



**Bucket**



**water/bleach solution**  
1 part bleach:9 parts water



**surgical mask** (optional)



**rubber gloves**



**oil/lubricant**  
(for metal parts and cable)



**paint scraper**



**hose**



**wipes**



**towels for drying**