

Bird Safety Corner

Kitchen, Part 2

Time to review one of the greatest hazards to birds in our homes – heated non-stick surfaces.

Non-stick surfaces have [perfluorooctanoic acid \(PFOA\)](#) and [polytetrafluoroethylene \(PTFE\)](#), two chemicals known for their toxic effects on birds when heated. I won't go into the chemistry here, but there's plenty written about them out there if you want to know more.

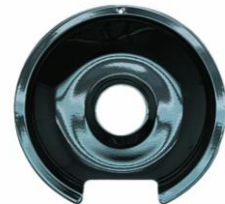


Common non-stick cookware trade names include Teflon and SilverStone, but remember that virtually everything labeled "non-stick" has these chemicals. PFOA/PTFE cause bird lung hemorrhage and death when heated. A common fallacy is that this can only occur if non-stick products are overheated. Instead, there is a high potential for toxicity at any temperature. PFOA was banned in 2015 in the U.S. due to its carcinogenicity, but PTFE is still manufactured. In birds, death occurs rapidly because of inhalation.

Cooking bags used to wrap meats and other foods in the oven are also hazardous, whether they are nonstick, aluminum, or plastic. All cooking bags should be avoided.



Many **drip/burner pans** are non-stick, and these can be even more hazardous than pans because they are closer to the heat source.



GreenPan is coated in Thermolon, a ceramic coating which is probably safe. If it is scratched, it could be toxic, so be careful to use only soft cleaning agents on it.

Be on the watch out for new **aluminum foils labeled as "quick release"**. These are coated with non-stick materials which will give off fumes toxic to birds when heated.



Cedar planks are available everywhere on which to grill salmon and other fish. Instructions will say that you can also put these in the oven. DON'T!! Cedar is very toxic to birds when heated. There have been reports of birds quickly dying when exposed to heated cedar. Cedar gives off aromatic hydrocarbons and acids (chemicals that become airborne when heated) that are deadly. Don't use cedar planks in the house at all and if grilling outside, make sure the fumes can't enter the house (in other words, not on the deck outside your bird room).

Don't put cedar shavings or toys in bird cages.

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