How Oiled Birds Are Cleaned
Cleaning Oiled Birds

Rescuing

Organizations throughout the Bay Area are coordinated by the Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN) and cooperate to rescue oiled birds.
Cleaning Oiled Birds

Rescuing

Initial Stabilization

WildCare treated over 20% of the oiled wildlife found in the aftermath of the spill.

Birds were given warmth and fluids and had temperatures and weights checked before being transferred to the washing stations.
Cleaning Oiled Birds

Rescuing

Initial Stabilization

Advanced Stabilization

An extensive medical evaluation is done to determine condition and stress levels before washing is attempted.
Effects of Oil on Birds

**Negative Buoyancy**
Birds lose their ability to float

**Hypothermia**
Reduced body temperature

**Oil Toxicity**
Preening leads to ingestion of the oil

**Have to be 100% Waterproof**
A bird that isn’t completely waterproof will die of hypothermia.
Cleaning Oiled Birds

Rescuing

Initial Stabilization

Advanced Stabilization

Washing

Many birds require multiple washes, each more stressful than the last.
Cleaning Oiled Birds

- Rescuing
- Initial Stabilization
- Advanced Stabilization
- Washing
- Rinsing
Cleaning Oiled Birds

- Rescuing
- Initial Stabilization
- Advanced Stabilization
- Washing
- Rinsing
- Drying

Birds are placed in heated enclosures to allow their feathers to dry while maintaining body temperature.
Cleaning Oiled Birds

Rescuing

Initial Stabilization

Advanced Stabilization

Washing

Rinsing

Drying

Warm Pools

Because most birds won’t be waterproof after initial washing, they are housed in warm pools to prevent hypothermia during recovery.
Cleaning Oiled Birds

Rescuing

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Initial Stabilization

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Advanced Stabilization

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Washing

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Rinsing

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Drying

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Warm Pools

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Cold Pools

Once birds demonstrate that they are waterproof, they remain in care to rehabilitate before they will be released.

Cold pools replicate their natural environment.
And finally… RELEASE!