



While galvanized steel is nowhere near as prone to rust as conventional steel or other metals are, it can still occasionally experience patches of rusting. Typically, this occurs in very specific situations:

- The metal's been in contact with high levels of acids, such as uncomposted chicken manures
- The metal's been sitting in standing water
- The metal's in an environment where it's exposed to high salt levels
- The metal's in contact with copper, regular steel, or iron

To prevent rust in your beds, it's important to use only composted manures (or to put any uncomposted manure in the center of the bed and away from the metal sides).

Ensure your soil blend does not hold excess moisture -- it should be somewhat moisture-retentive but should allow excess water to freely drain away. This also means that if your Birdies bed is on a surface that does not absorb moisture, you should watch to ensure it's draining well -- a bed placed on concrete should have moisture coming from around its base when it's draining freely. Beds that are directly placed on the soil should be able to drain off into the surrounding soil.

Those in seaside communities should keep an eye on the integrity of their beds. While the paint used on Birdies should prevent rust and oxidation on the exterior of the bed, anywhere that the paint has been scratched may be at risk of salt spray oxidation. Generally this presents as a very thin line of surface rust and does not degrade the integrity of the bed severely, but you'll want to make sure it doesn't spread.

Finally, use galvanized steel hardware with your bed, and try to avoid regular contact with other forms of metal. Any exposed galvanized metal can experience galvanic corrosion -- this chemical reaction between the galvanized steel and iron, copper, or conventional steel can create patches of rust where it makes regular contact. Limited contact, such as tools touching the bed, should not have an impact, but you should avoid constant touching of other metals with your Birdies bed.

