

Prevention

The key to prevention is strict biosecurity, due to the lack of accessible vaccine in Canada. The virus is killed by some, but not all, cleaning agents. It is important to discuss with your veterinarian which disinfectants are suitable and their proper usage.

Biosecurity measures should encompass:

- purchasing any new rabbits from healthy rabbitries
- quarantining new rabbits for 15-30 days before introducing them to the household/farm, and being careful to wash hands and wear separate clothing while handling new rabbits
- preventing domestic rabbits from coming in contact with wild rabbits (ensuring that wild rabbits do not have access to any area that domestic rabbits are housed)
- cleaning cages and equipment between rabbits from different sources
- disinfecting shoes upon entering from outdoors or not allowing rabbits access to high traffic areas such as the front door or porch

For More Information

[Rabbit haemorrhagic disease \(RHD\) fact sheet - Canadian Food Inspection Agency \(canada.ca\)](#)

[Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus - OIE](#)

[Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease - AVMA](#)