

Cleaning and Disinfection on the Farm

FOOTWEAR



Cleaning and disinfecting footwear can minimize disease risks on your farm, but proper procedure is needed. Follow these steps to minimize disease transfer by footwear.



1. Dirty boots or footwear can spread diseases to other locations on or off your farm



2. Set up a specific area where boots can be cleaned and disinfected. Place all supplies (detergent, water source) in the area.



3. Rinse all visible debris off of boots. Most disinfectant are not effective when dirt and manure are present.



4. Wash boots with a soap or detergent solution. Use a scrub brush to get the crevices of the soles cleaned.



5. Rinse the detergent off of the boots. Some disinfectants are inactivated by soaps and detergents.



6. Apply the disinfectant solution to boot surfaces. Let the solution sit on the boot surface for the full contact time.

Photo sources: 1. Renée Dewell, Iowa State University; 2, 4, 5, 6. Danelle Bickett-Weddle, Iowa State University; 3. Pork Checkoff/Flickr, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

WHAT ABOUT BOOT BATHS?

Boot baths, solutions of disinfectants that are walked through, are commonly used. However, if not used properly, they not only can be ineffective, but may actually increase organism transmission. If boots have dirt and debris on their surfaces, this will prevent a disinfectant from doing its job. Boots must be cleaned before disinfection application. Additionally, cleaned boots must remain in the solution for the necessary contact time. Freshly prepared disinfectant solutions should be prepared daily. If the solution becomes visibly soiled throughout the day, a fresh solution should be prepared. If these steps are in place, boot baths can be a useful part of a footwear biosecurity plan.

A NOTE ABOUT DISINFECTANT SOLUTIONS

- When preparing the disinfectant solution.
 - It is important to read the product label and use the recommended concentration. If solutions are too weak, disease-causing organisms may not be killed. If too strong, damage to the boot surface or flooring may occur.
 - Disinfectant solutions should be prepared daily. Many lose their efficacy over time. Using fresh solutions ensures the desired impact.
- When applying the disinfectant solution to boot surfaces.
 - The disinfectant solution must remain on the boot surface for the full contact time. This will be listed on the product label, and is generally 5-10 min. The full contact time is needed to allow the disinfectant to do its job. Additionally, surfaces must remain “wet” with the solution throughout the entire contact time. If surfaces dry before that, reapply, reset the clock.

WHAT DISINFECTANT SHOULD BE USED?

This depends on a variety of factors. There are many different effective disinfectants for everyday use. If a particular organism is known or trying to be avoided, check the product's label. Organisms a disinfectant is effective against – when used according to product instructions – will be listed on the label.

OTHER FACTORS TO CONSIDER

- Be sure disinfectants are stored properly. Most list best storage temperature ranges.
- Hard water may negatively impact efficacy of disinfectant.
- Always follow disinfectant label directions regarding contact time, proper storage, dilution rates, and disposal methods.

Additional information on cleaning and disinfection and farm biosecurity can be found on the Center for Food Security and Public Health (CFSPH) website.

- [Cleaning and Disinfection Resources](#)
- [Farm Biosecurity Resources](#)

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