

PREPARING FOOTBATHS

Footbaths are a useful and inexpensive method of decontaminating footwear to manage the biosecurity risk of staff and visitors entering and leaving your property. However, disinfectants are often ineffective in the presence of mud, dirt and manure. For maximum cleaning, two footbaths are required for each footbath station: one for washing and one for disinfecting.*

EQUIPMENT

- 2 x heavy-duty scrubbing brushes
- Scraping tool (eg horse hoof pick or a screwdriver)
- 2 x large heavy duty plastic containers
- Clean water
- Liquid soap/detergent
- Registered disinfectant
- Drying material: something clean, porous and non-slip (eg. hessian bags, rubber mats or towels)
- Tarpaulin (if footbaths are to be placed on a dirt surface).

PREPARATION

Set up each footbath station on a flat surface. Place the footbath station on the tarpaulin if necessary.

- Footbath 1 (washing): Fill one plastic container with clean water for washing off any mud, dirt or manure prior to the decontamination process. Dedicate one brush, the scraping tool and the detergent to this footbath.
- Footbath 2 (disinfection): Fill the second container with a registered disinfectant at the appropriate concentration according to the manufacturer's instructions. Dedicate the other brush to this disinfection footbath. *
- Lay drying material after each of the clean water and decontamination footbaths.

DISPOSAL

Footbaths should be regularly changed as accumulation of dirt and rain-water in these solutions will reduce their effectiveness. Dispose of the water and disinfectant away from any production areas and water sources. Take note of label instructions for disposal of the disinfectant.

References:

<https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/biosecurity-basics-make-your-own-footbath/>

* A spray bottle of disinfectant can be used as an alternative to having a second footbath. Check the manufacturer's instructions to ensure the correct concentration of disinfectant is used for this method of application.