

USING FOOTBATHS

Contaminated footwear can be the source of disease transmission between properties. It is essential that anybody entering and leaving the property effectively cleans and disinfects their footwear to reduce the risk of disease spread. Footbaths can assist in this process but it is important that several steps are followed in order for them to be effective.

1. WASHING

All visible mud, dirt and manure must be removed prior to disinfection. This organic matter rapidly contaminates the footbath and prevents the disinfectant from working effectively.

- Using the first footbath, actively scrub all footwear surfaces with a heavy-duty scrubbing brush, including the soles. Waterproof boots can be fully submerged and scrubbed whilst standing in the footbath.
- Use liquid soap/detergent to assist with removal of organic matter.
- Use the scraping tool to remove any stubborn mud or manure from the soles.
- Exit the footbath onto the drying surface provided.

2. DISINFECTION

- Once visible clean, use the second footbath to thoroughly disinfect the footwear.*
- Use the second scrubbing brush to ensure disinfectant contacts all surfaces.
- Exit the footbath onto the drying surface provided.
- For waterproof boots, do not allow footwear to get wet for at least 15 minutes to ensure adequate contact time with the disinfectant.
- For leather or fabric footwear, prolonged and repeated exposure to disinfectants can damage the surface and a rinse with clean water is advisable. It is recommended that staff and visitors working with or around animals wear rubber boots to allow easier cleaning and disinfection.

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. Ensure all surfaces (especially the soles) are thoroughly sprayed with disinfectant after the washing process. Avoid wetting the footwear for 15 minutes after spraying to ensure adequate contact time with the disinfectant.*