

## Boot Baths – Footwear Disinfection

Properly maintained boot baths can reduce the amount of disease causing organisms carried on footwear when used correctly. To be effective, a two step process is recommended – Clean then Disinfect. Boot baths should be set up and used at the biosecure entry, monitored by all who use it for build up of organic matter, changed when dirty, and the solution mixed at the proper dilution. Everyone should be required to clean and disinfect their footwear or wear site-provided footwear or footwear covers prior to entering animal housing areas.

### Boot Bath Setup

- ❖ Use a plastic pan or bin, wide enough for standing, and shallow enough to step into easily. The container should hold disinfectant solution without spilling over the edge when a boot is placed inside.
- ❖ Place the boot bath on a solid surface to provide firmer footing.
- ❖ Place a bristle brush or an artificial grass doormat near the bin to aid in removing organic material and bedding from the tread of boots.
- ❖ Permanently mark the pan/bin for the water level to ensure solution volume is consistent.
- ❖ Provide a water source to mix the disinfectant solution and to wash organic debris off boots.
- ❖ Mix an appropriate concentration of an EPA approved disinfectant, labeled to inactivate avian influenza virus, according to label directions. **It is a violation of federal law to use a disinfectant in a manner inconsistent with its labeling.**
- ❖ Cover the bin to prevent contamination or inactivation of the disinfectant between uses.

### Clean Boots

- ❖ Remove all organic matter from boots first! A water bath, or hose and boot brush can be used Detergent may facilitate the removal process.
- ❖ Rinse detergent residue from boots as it can inactivate some disinfectant products.

### Disinfect Boots

- ❖ Step into the disinfectant solution. Use a boot brush to apply disinfectant solution to all surfaces.
- ❖ Contact time with disinfectant solution is essential!  
Do NOT rinse off disinfectant.
  - ❖ Boots should be disinfected on each side of the biosecure entry.
- ❖ Remove boots before crossing the line of separation.
- ❖ Allow boots to air dry.

Post signs near the boot bath describing the steps in proper cleaning, disinfection, including contact time for the solution being used, and how to mix fresh solution.



Source: Danelle Bickett-Weddle, CFSPH, ISU

## ❖ Avoid These Common Boot Bath Pitfalls

- ❖ **Inadequate removal of organic matter.** Feces, bedding, and mud can inactivate many disinfectants and needs to be removed thoroughly before disinfecting.
- ❖ **Inadequate contact time with disinfectant solution.** Contact time is essential for the disinfectant to kill microorganisms. Read and follow the label directions.
- ❖ **Improper maintenance of disinfectant solution.** Solution should be changed daily (or according to label directions) or when visibly contaminated.
- ❖ **Improper location of boot bath and/or disinfectant storage.** Disinfectants can be temperature and light sensitive. Read the product label and store the concentrate, and boot bath solution, in areas protected from environmental exposure (light, heat, freezing temperatures).