

# Cleaning and Disinfection on the Farm

## GROOMING EQUIPMENT



Routinely cleaning animal grooming equipment can help prevent the transfer of disease, especially if the equipment is shared among multiple animals.

Follow these tips to keep grooming equipment clean and sanitized.

### WHY SHOULD GROOMING EQUIPMENT BE CLEANED?

Routine cleaning of animal grooming equipment may help prevent skin problems from developing or spreading, especially if the equipment is shared among multiple animals. Diseases such as ringworm or orf can be easily spread when contaminated equipment is shared.

### WASHING GROOMING EQUIPMENT

- Remove any visible contamination (e.g. dirt, hair, mud, manure) prior to washing.
- Most equipment can be washed with a mild detergent, such as dishwashing soap and warm water. A soap with grease removers can be particularly helpful in removing oils.
- Soaking may be needed to loosen and remove all oils, dander, scabs and other residue.
- If there is concern about a zoonotic disease, such as ringworm or orf, wear protective gloves.

### DISINFECTING GROOMING EQUIPMENT

- After washing, it is important to disinfect. A general disinfection solution can be made using ½ cup bleach (5.25% sodium hypochlorite):1 gallon water.
- The amount of time the item is in contact with the solution is important. The solution must have time to do its job. Be sure the full contact time is reached. This is generally about 10 minutes. Check the product label.
- For resistant diseases, such as ringworm, a stronger bleach solution (1-1/2 cups bleach:1 gallon water) may be needed. Talk with your veterinarian to select an effective disinfection product and procedure for these situations.
- After the disinfecting contact time has been reached, rinse the equipment well with water.
- Let items dry thoroughly before using. Placing grooming tools in the sun can help speed the process.
- To minimize water damage to wooden brushes, place them “bristles down” on a towel when drying.



Photo from Renée Dewell, Iowa State University

## WASH HANDS AFTER HANDLING EQUIPMENT

- Hands contaminated from grooming equipment can lead to possible ingestion of disease-causing organisms.
- Always wash your hands thoroughly with soap and warm water after handling grooming equipment.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

[Cleaning and Disinfection on the Farm: Hand Washing.](#)

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