

GUIDELINES FOR DISINFECTION

Equipment

Why disinfect equipment

To minimize the spread of diseases onto or between properties may require a change in current daily routine, as horse equipment can be a major risk in the spread of diseases.

Best practice is:

- for all equipment to remain on the one property
- for each property to have it's own set or equipment
- not to lend or borrow horse equipment.

If equipment must be moved off the property, it should be cleaned and disinfected first.

Assess your risk rating

Equipment type	Risk rating
Equipment that has been in contact with horse snot, mucus, cough or sneeze droplets; e.g. bridles, halters, twitches, feed bowls and troughs, horse dental equipment, veterinarian diagnostic equipment etc.	Very High (See Procedure 1, below)
Equipment that has been in direct contact with horses; e.g. saddles, leads, horse rugs and saddle cloths, grooming gear, horse bandages, leg and tail wrappings, farrier equipment etc.	Medium However, any equipment that is contaminated with horse snot, mucus, cough or sneeze droplets must be upgraded to High Risk. (See Procedure 2, below)
Other	Access for each risk situation.

Procedure 1 - for equipment with a VERY HIGH RISK rating

Note: many of these items can be difficult to disinfect effectively

1. Leather items

- thoroughly wash or wipe leather equipment with water and disinfectant; e.g. non-scented TriGene Advance, using a sponge or a paper towel. Ensure bridle bits are washed thoroughly.

OR:

- Spray equipment all over with 70% methylated spirits (e.g. 700mL methylated spirits and 30mL water), ensure all surfaces are thoroughly sprayed.

THEN:

- Place in direct sunlight off the ground (e.g. on a tarp) for 30 minutes.

2. Non leather items

- Clean away all dirt and contamination using disinfectant and water.
- Thoroughly disinfect by spraying or dunking in disinfectant.
- Ensure that items remain immersed in, or remain wet, with disinfectant for at least 10 minutes after which it may be rinsed off with water and allowed to dry.

3. Dental gear and veterinarian diagnostic equipment

Non-delicate equipment:

- Wash or wipe equipment to remove all dirt, manure and body fluids, etc.
- Thoroughly disinfect by spraying or dunking in disinfectant.
- Ensure that items remain immersed in, or remain wet, with disinfectant for at least 10 minutes after which it may be rinsed off with water and allowed to dry.

3. Dental gear and veterinarian diagnostic equipment (cont...)

Delicate equipment:

- a. If the procedure above cannot be used because of the type of equipment, use alcohol wipes to remove all dirt, manure, body fluids etc.

Note: Cleaning will need to be very thorough to ensure all viruses are destroyed.

Procedure 2 - for equipment with a MEDIUM RISK rating

1. Horse rugs, saddle cloths, horse bandages, leg and tail wrappings, ropes etc.

- a. Wash with water and detergent in large tubs. Ensure the fabric is completely submerged. Hang out to dry in direct sunlight, off the ground. Periodically turn over to assist drying.

OR:

- b. Brush to remove dirt, mud or hair. Spray both sides thoroughly with 70% methylated spirits (e.g. 700 mL methylated spirits and 300 mL water) and place in direct sunlight off the ground for 30 minutes or until dry.

2. Saddles, leather leads

- a. Wash or wipe leather with water and disinfectant using a sponge or paper towel
- b. Spray underside of saddles (or other equipment with cloth or padded areas) with 70% methylated spirits (e.g. 700 mL methylated spirits and 300 mL water)
- c. Place in direct sunlight off the ground (e.g. on a tarp) for 30 minutes.

3. Grooming and farrier equipment

- a. Thoroughly wash in water and detergent
- b. Use scrubbing brush to remove heavy dirt, mud or hair.

Detergents

Liquid dishwashing liquid such as Morning Fresh or Palmolive is to be used for general washing.

Liquid hand soap should be used for washing hands.

Disinfectants

It is important that disinfectants have a contact time of at least 10 minutes. After 10 minutes it may be rinsed off or washed of with water. (This does not apply to alcohol based disinfectants.)

Suitable disinfectants include:

- Disinfectants containing Chlorhexidine: e.g. Savlon or Hibitane, or Dettol
- TriGene Advance; distributed by Ethical Agents, and available from most Veterinary Practices. The "clear" type has no smell, and is the most effective.
- Alcohol wipes – for use on delicate veterinarian diagnostic equipment
- Methylated Spirits, diluted with water to 70% and used as a spray.

Note: Disinfectants cannot do their job unless the item is clean. Remove all visible contamination first, using a detergent such as dish-washing liquid.

If you suspect your horse has Equine Influenza call your veterinarian, or contact MAF on 0800 80 99 66