

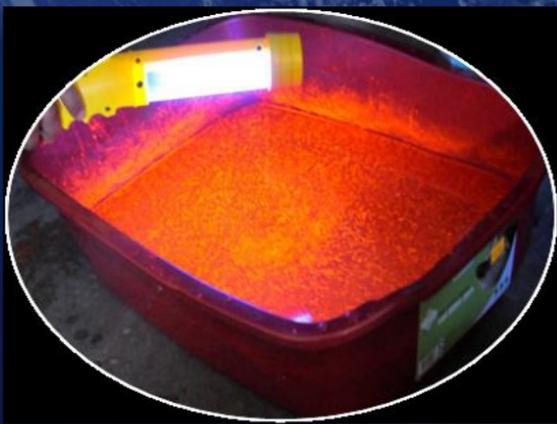
# BOOT WASHING

Good sanitising practises are the first line of defense for keeping the barn pathogen free. Poultry facilities are extremely difficult and expensive to clean, sanitize and disinfect once contaminated with pathogens such as bacteria or viruses.<sup>1</sup> Strong biosecurity starts with you!

## BIOSECURITY IN ACTION

These photographs highlight the difficulty in cleaning boots and equipment and highlight the opportunity for diseases to get into poultry facilities from outside sources. Here you see the use of Glogerm™, a luminescent substance when under UV light, to show the importance of dedicated barn footwear and plastic boot covers.

Pictures 1 and 2 show that bacteria and viruses can get tracked into your facility without you knowing it if a proper biosecurity program is not in place. **Effective cleaning and disinfection of designated Barn boots or wearing disposable boot covers is just as important in ensuring disease stays out of your barn.**



Footbaths have historically been used to keep barn boots clean, however the maintenance of these on most facilities is poor, and frequently they are overly contaminated with organic matter. This image shows what a foot bath can look like after a single use! People commonly avoid stepping into foot baths or simply step through the bath without stopping to clean their boots. Improper boot cleaning methods waste time and money and may place the flock at risk of pathogen spread.<sup>2</sup>

## How to Keep Your Boots Clean

1.

Be equipped with boot covers that allow for easy disinfection and don't collect organic debris.<sup>3</sup>

2.

Remove built up shavings, manure or dirt from your boots as soon as possible, focusing on the boot treads and crevices. Use a dedicated brush for boot cleaning.

3.

Keep disinfectant, wash pails and a plastic/non-porous boot brush specifically for scrubbing boots readily available.<sup>3</sup>

4.

Step into disinfectant foot bath and scrub boots clean. Bacteria counts are significantly less when boots are scrubbed for 30 seconds in a bath compared to not using a bath or standing in a bath that had been used 10 times.<sup>2</sup>

5.

Clean scrub brushes and pails of water. Once scrubbed, spray with disinfectant or sanitizer soap.<sup>3</sup>

Less residue is left on cleaned boot covers vs rubber boots.



### References:

1. Poultry Facility Biosecurity, John B. Carrey
2. Evaluating the efficacy of boot baths in biosecurity protocols, Sandra F. Amass, DVM, PhD, Dipl. ABVP et al.
3. Ontario Veterinary Biosecurity Initiative Protocol OnFarm Veterinary Biosecurity, OVMA