

GUIDELINE 26

Fix areas that make udders dirty

In this guideline:

26.1 Clean and renovate areas around troughs, gates, races and entrances to the dairy area

26.2 Regularly clean and maintain areas where cows are stood off-pasture

Keeping udders and teats clean helps reduce the risk of mastitis due to environmental bacteria. Areas where cows stand and lie down should be kept clear of manure and dirt to help keep udders and teats as clean as possible.

Regular cleaning and maintenance of high use areas will help make the task less difficult.

Lactating cows in dirty areas

If this is unavoidable, ensure that:



- Teats are thoroughly washed and dried before attaching teat cups during milking. See [Guideline 5.3](#) for more on pre-milking preparation of teats.
- Teats are thoroughly sprayed with teat disinfectant after milking.

Dry cows in dirty areas

If this is unavoidable, ensure that:



- All cows receive antibiotic dry cow treatment and/or internal teat sealants at dry off. See [Guideline 14.4](#) for different dry cow strategies.
- Cows' teats are sprayed regularly e.g. 2-3 times weekly, with teat disinfectant, especially in last month before calving. This will help reduce numbers of bacteria on the teats and reduce risk of mastitis after calving. See [Guideline 19.1](#) for more on spraying teats in the dry period.



Dry cows in dirty areas

[Technote 26 - Fix areas that make udders dirty](#)

26.1 Clean and renovate areas around troughs, gates, races and entrance to the dairy area.

Adequate drainage and proper formation of farm races will reduce problems with dirty teats and udders.

Consider concreting high traffic areas which regularly become muddy.

Don't allow cows to enter streams, rivers, ponds, or other waterways to drink as this contravenes the [Dairying and Clean Streams Accord](#).



See [DairyNZ Farmfacts - Environment](#) for more on design and maintenance of infrastructure.

26.2 Regularly clean and maintain areas where cows are stood off-pasture.

All areas where cows are held for any period of time should have good drainage, and be regularly cleaned and maintained to help keep teats and udders clean.

Depending on the surface materials used, this may mean:

- Washing holding yards after every use.
- Scraping alleyways and areas where cows feed or stand daily.
- Cleaning up loafing areas daily or weekly.

If free-stalls or cubicles are being used for lactating cows, these should be:

- Cleaned or scraped off daily.
- Fresh bedding and/or lime applied after cleaning.
- Lying areas maintained so that water does not pool.



See [DairyNZ Farmfacts - Environment](#) for more on design and maintenance of infrastructure.