

THE 3 PURPOSES OF POST-DIPPING

For several years now, post-dipping products have been proven to be one of the most efficient tools to prevent mastitis. Let's review the reason for such a success:

- 1) The first action of a post-dip solution **is to disinfect the skin of the teats**. The risk of contamination from the machine is decreased by disinfecting the skin that was in contact with the cluster to avoid udder infection by bacteria from the liners. This is especially the case for contagious bacteria spread by the milking equipment.

When the cluster is removed from the teats, the teat sphincter stays opened for a certain period of time.

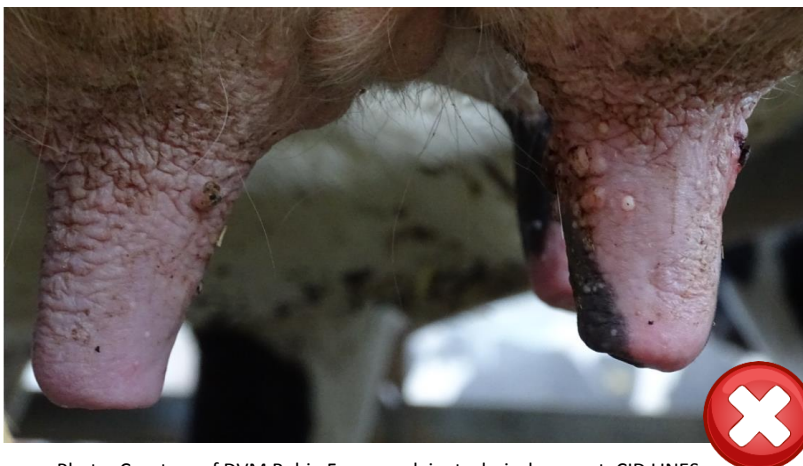
TIP: check how the teat dip is applied to be sure that it offers a full protection



Although a post-dip is used, the coverage is not good enough to offer sufficient protection

Photo: Courtesy of DVM Robin Franzon, dairy technical support, CID LINES

- 2) The second purpose of the post dip as important as disinfection, is to **take care of the teat skin**. A good teat skin is the first barrier against bacteria. A damaged skin with cracks and wounds offers opportunity for contagious bacteria to multiply.



Poor teat skin condition is a risk for mastitis






Photo: Courtesy of DVM Robin Franzon, dairy technical support, CID LINES

Tip: check the teat skin condition score thanks to the scoring following chart



Teat skin conditioning scores

0: Teat skin has been subjected to physical injury (stepped on, frostbitten, etc). Not related to the treatment or the quarter is non-lactating. The cow is excluded from the trial.

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| 1: Teat skin is smooth, free from scales, cracks or chapping. |  | 4: Teat skin is chapped and cracked. Redness, indicating inflammation is present. Numerous warts may be present. |  |
| 2: Teat skin shows some evidence of scaling. |  | 5: Teat skin is severely damaged and ulcerative with scabs or open lesions. Large and/or numerous warts, which interfere with teat end function. |  |
| 3: Teat skin is chapped. Some small warts may be present. |  | | |

Source : <http://www.cidlines.com/>

Teat end conditioning scores

0: Teat skin has been subjected to physical injury (stepped on, frostbitten, etc). Not related to the treatment or the quarter is non-lactating. The cow is excluded from the trial.

- 1: Teat end sphincter is smooth, with no evidence of irritation.
- 2: Teat end has a raised ring.
- 3: Teat end sphincter is roughened with slight cracks, but no redness is present.
- 4: Teat end sphincter is inverted with many cracks, giving a "flowered" appearance. Teat end may have old but healing scabs.

- 1) A protection against environmental bacteria is the third function of a post-dip. Once the milking is finished, 30 minutes- 1 hour are necessary for the teat sphincter to close. During this time, there is a risk for the cow to be infected by bacteria from the environment. Thanks to the adequate viscosity, a dipping product is covering the teat; it "physically" closes the teat canal. A spray product works by providing immediate disinfection, but does not provide any protection after few minutes. Moreover, obtaining a good coverage by spraying is often a challenge.



Good teat skin coverage allows to close the teat canal and protects against bacteria from environment

Source picture: <http://www.cidlines.com/fr-FR/hygi%C3%A8ne-de-la-mamelle>