

# PROTECTING MILK QUALITY POST-MILKING



Post-milking treatment of teats is almost universally adopted in the UK and the benefits of this practice are proven, well documented and is made possible by a vast range of available products and formulations. In last month's issue of the magazine, we focused on pre-milking teat foaming and looked at the specific needs of such a product, compared to those of a post-milking application. What was very obvious was that there were differing needs, meaning that a specific product pre and a specific product post milking are essential.

## WHAT'S NEEDED IN A POST MILKING PRODUCT?

PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS	POST-TREATMENT
Germicidal Stability	Critical
Physical Stability	Critical
Broad Spectrum - Mastitis Pathogens	Critical
Residual Action	Critical
Non-Irritating	Critical
Promotes Healing	Critical
Adheres to Teats	Critical
Viscosity	High
No Milk Residues	Desirable
Fast Kill	Desirable

Post milking, the teat orifice can remain open beyond a few minutes so this period is critical to minimising the chances of pathogens entering the teat canal through the teat end. Therefore, applying a product quickly and effectively post milking is crucial. The mode of action for this process is that a droplet of product covers and partially enters the orifice, forming a barrier and preventing ingress of bacteria whilst the orifice closes naturally.

Applying post milking products can be done either by dipping whereby the teat is immersed fully into the dipping vessel, or alternatively through spraying. Whichever option is used, it is critical to ensure that best-practice is followed in maintaining equipment and that application is done effectively to maximise cover and minimise waste.

### ACTIVE INGREDIENTS

There are four key active ingredients used in post-milking products:

- Iodine
- Chlorhexidine
- Lactic Acid
- Chlorine Dioxide

Each ingredient has features and benefits which with the correct advice, can help in specific situations on-farm. The most recent active ingredient to have emerged is Chlorine Dioxide which is less well understood but does have some unique features which can add real value to dairies.

### CHLORINE DIOXIDE

Chlorine Dioxide teat products have a mode of action which allows a biocidal effect through the release of Chlorine Dioxide gas. These types of product need to be "activated" before use through the addition of an activator to prepare the product for use. The Chlorine Dioxide produced through this reaction has a limited life which means that some products rely on a second active ingredient, e.g. Lactic acid, to prolong the active working life of the product, beyond the limited working life of the Chlorine Dioxide in the dip. However, producing a stable Chlorine Dioxide product is possible and Kenomix, available in both dip and spray formulations, is now available in the UK.

## KENOMIX

Kenomix is a stable, barrier-forming teat dip and spray which once mixed with its activator, remains active for a full 26 days. Containing Sorbitol and Glycerol to promote teat skin condition and leaving a vivid turquoise film, Kenomix has a broad spectrum, long residual action of pathogen kill leaving no residues in milk. Due to the high viscosity, barrier forming characteristics of Kenomix, consumption is low meaning that it is very cost effective in use.



## KENOMIX FARMER EXPERIENCE

Ali and Nick Maynard run a 140 cow Holstein x Friesian dairy herd in Awliscombe, Devon. Their pre-milking preparation included CID Lines Kenopure foaming dip and a Chlorine Dioxide post-dip from another manufacturer. Both Ali and Nick felt results post-milking could be improved so having already seen great results with the Kenopure pre-foam, they looked at the CID LINES range for alternatives to what they were using post-milking.



They commented:

***"The Kenopure cleaned and disinfected the teats very quickly so we were very happy with that part of the process however, we were not as pleased with the post-dip. We felt that Chlorine Dioxide was still the best option for our farm so we tried Kenomix as an alternative Chlorine Dioxide-based product. Straight away we noticed a difference. Kenomix is a stable product, performing better with a consistent gas release over 26 days, great***

## viscosity and good teat colouration

They added:

***"Kenomix forms a bright turquoise film and there is zero drip and waste. Added to that, teat condition is excellent, cell counts have dropped and bactoscans are low. We use less and the product is less expensive than our previous dip so it's a win: win for us. Kenomix does exactly what we were told it would do and we will keep using it"***

Kenomix is available in both dip and spray formulations and is available exclusively from Pearce Dairy and DairyCentre in the South West.



## Local Contacts



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