

PRE-DIP

Preparation of the teats before milking plays an important role in mastitis management. In practice, there is still plethora of technics and products used to prepare the teats, more or less efficient to prevent mastitis. Let's review the purposes of a pre-dipping product:

1) The major role of a pre-dip is to clean the skin prior to milking. A distinction must be done between cleaning and disinfecting. Cleaning properties mean that it removes the dirt from the skin, thanks to detergent activity. Disinfecting means killing bacteria. A disinfecting substance applied on a dirty skin will be inactivated or will not disinfect the skin properly. Think about what you do for yourself: if you fall on the ground and you get hurt, what is your first reflex? Clean the wounds or disinfect it?

It is especially recommended to use a dedicated product for teat preparation instead of a diluted post-dip.

- The pre-post solutions are focusing on disinfecting activity.

- Pre-dipping product must contain fast acting substances (there is a short contact time of 30 seconds during milking preparation). Iodine based products for instance, often used as pre-post solutions need around 5 minutes to reach a perfect disinfection.

- Pre-dipping solutions are formulated to avoid residues. Iodine based product are for that reason not adapted as pre-dip solutions.

2) Another important characteristic of an adequate pre-dip product is its capacity to be applied on the skin as foam. Using a foaming product as preparation is beneficial for several reasons:

- It allows to focus on the teats and not to spray product on the udder

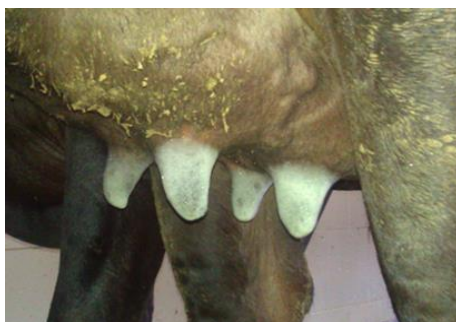


Photo: Courtesy of DVM Josephine Verhaeghe, dairy technical support, CID LINES

- It reduces product consumption

- It provides a "dry cleaning". Teats must be dry to attach the cluster, foam is a perfect solution for it



Dedicated pre-dipping products are made to facilitate the cleaning process

