

## Cleaning and Disinfection of a Horse Trailer

---

1. Cleaning and disinfecting a horse trailer is ideally done within twenty four (24) hours of shipping the horse. If the trailered horse was sick, personnel should wear protective clothing, footwear and gloves while cleaning the trailer.
2. Completely remove all feed, bedding and manure. Use a broom to sweep the small-particle materials into a pile and remove for disposal.
3. Remove all detachable fittings, such as leads and haynets. Wash these separately.
4. Remove floor mats to be cleaned and disinfected separately outside of the trailer.
5. Gently rinse the inside of the trailer floors and the walls with low pressure water (no nozzles). Manually wash all visible loose organic matter down the walls. Use of high pressure water (pressure washer) is not recommended for cleaning since it distributes dirt and infectious agents into the air and beyond to adjacent surfaces.
6. Use a foaming soap agent and a stiff-bristle brush that can fit into the corners to scrub the inside of the trailer, all walls, the ceiling, the floor and the loading ramp.
7. Scrub from the TOP DOWN in the following order:
  - a. Scrub each of the walls thoroughly with a brush.
  - b. Scrub an 18 to 24-inch wide area from top to bottom.
  - c. Move 18 to 24 inches to the right on the wall and scrub another 18 to 24-inch wide section, slightly overlapping the previously scrubbed area.
  - d. Continue this process until you have scrubbed all surfaces, including the inside of the doors, the floor and ramp.
8. Use an appropriate size brush to clean specific trailer areas, such as gate hinges, between pipes, chest and tail bars, latches and ledges.
9. Gently rinse off the foaming soap agent. Surfaces with manure, blood or dirt still "caked on" them should be rescrubbed with foaming agent until clean, since organic matter interferes with the effectiveness of disinfectants.
10. Rinse out any particulate matter left in the trailer after scrubbing.
11. Finally, disinfect all surfaces within the trailer:
  - a. Spray all interior surfaces with a disinfectant solution and use a stiff-bristle brush and scrubbing pattern on all surfaces. Also spray the bleach solution on hayracks, pipes, latches, gate hinges and ledges.

In general, 1:10 dilution of bleach to water is effective. However, in most stall situations, organic material cannot be completely eliminated, therefore it is necessary to use a disinfectant that has activity in the presence of organic materials, such as a phenolic (1 Stoke Environ® or SynPhenol-3®) or an accelerated hydrogen peroxide product (Intervention®). All products should be used in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations and label instructions.
  - b. Allow an appropriate contact time for the disinfectant. For a 1:10 bleach to water solution **a minimum contact time is ten minutes**. Then gently rinse the inside of the doors, the walls, the floor, the loading ramp and all other surfaces and equipment with water.
  - c. The bleach application / scrubbing process may be repeated three times.
12. The exterior of the trailer should be cleaned and disinfected following the same procedure as the interior. Ensure wheels, mudguards and wheel arches are cleaned and disinfected.
13. Removed floor mats should be rinsed with water on both sides to remove dirt and debris
  - a. Scrub one side of floor mat from top left to bottom right. Follow same scrub and disinfectant procedure as trailer.
  - b. Allow bleach to dry on the mat and once dry follow the same procedure to clean and disinfect the other side of the floor mat.
  - c. After trailer and mats have dried, return floor mats to trailer.
14. A visual inspection of the trailer should be done to ensure that the trailer is ready for a new occupant before shipping another horse.