

Cleaning and Disinfection of a Vacated Stall

1. Mucking out, cleaning and disinfecting a stall is ideally done within four (4) hours of a horse vacating the stall. If the vacated horse was sick, personnel should wear protective clothing, disposable boot covers and gloves while cleaning the stall.
2. Completely remove all feed, bedding and manure. Use a broom to sweep small-particle materials into a pile and remove.
3. Gently rinse the inside of the stall door and the walls with low pressure water (no nozzle). Manually wash all visible loose organic matter down the walls. The use of high-pressure water (i.e., pressure washer) is not recommended for cleaning stalls since it distributes dirt and infectious agents into the air and onto adjacent surfaces.
4. Use a foaming soap agent and a stiff-bristle brush to scrub the inside of the stall door and all four walls. The brush should be one that can fit into the corners of the stall.
5. Always scrub from the TOP DOWN in the following order:
 - a. Scrub each wall, starting with the top left-hand corner of the back wall.
 - b. Scrub an area 18 to 24 inches wide, using horizontal strokes from top of the wall to the bottom, then rescrub the same area using vertical strokes.
 - 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 in the same manner from the top of the wall to the bottom.
 - d. Continue this process until you have scrubbed all four walls and the inside of the door.
 - e. Use the same scrubbing pattern on cement floors.
6. Use a designated brush to clean specific stall areas such as gate hinges, between pipes, waterers, hay racks, feed buckets, pipes, latches and ledges.
7. Gently rinse off the foaming soap agent. Rescrub areas found with manure, blood or dirt "caked on" them with foaming agent until clean, since organic matter interferes with the effectiveness of disinfectants. Remove any particulate matter left in the stall after scrubbing.
8. Finally, disinfect all stall surfaces:
 - a. Spray the inside of the stall door, all four walls and any concrete floor with a disinfectant and use the same stiff-bristle brush and double-scrubbing pattern on all surfaces. Also spray the disinfectant solution on waterers, hayracks, feed buckets, pipes, latches, gate hinges and ledges.

In general, 1:10 dilution of bleach to water is an effective disinfectant. 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 disinfectants should be used according to manufacturer 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 door, the walls, the floor and all other stall surfaces and equipment with water.
 - c. The disinfectant application/scrubbing process may be repeated three times.
9. After use, remove all particulate matter from stall cleaning equipment, such as shovels, rakes, brooms and brushes; wash then soak the equipment in a barrel with disinfectant solution. Always disinfect stall cleaning equipment before cleaning another stall.
10. A designated event official should visually inspect cleaned/disinfected stalls to ensure that the stall is ready for a new occupant before assigning the stall to an owner/agent for another horse.
11. Once the stall has been cleaned, disinfected and inspected, the outer stall door should be kept closed until a new horse is assigned to the stall.