

Keeping Your Equipment Clean

Supplies needed

- Inflation Brush (cut the end off and dab a little JB Weld on it)
- Long ¼' Tubing Brush (like the brushes that you can buy at a Fish store, they are softer)
- Handle brush
- Green Scrubby Pad
- Cable Brush
- Cooler Pump (opt, we'll talk about this later)
- Large Bucket
- Bleach
- Cascade Powder
- Very Hot Water

Let me start by saying that there are different ways to clean your milking and feeding equipment, this is what I have found to work the best. I give these instructions with the milking machines that I sell.

First and foremost you need to clean with VERY hot water. Dairies have found that a water temp of 165 degrees is needed for cleaning milking equipment. This temp is required to dissolve the butterfat that adheres to the inside of the inflations, tubing and bucket.

I used Dairy soap and acid for cleaning but was finding these very hard to get in small quantities at a reasonable price, so I started looking for alternatives. I found that Cascade Powder is very close to Dairy soap but without the acid. I like the powder better than the gel, I think it cleans better.

Cleaning Lambars

First, mix up a solution of hot water and Cascade. I like to fill the Lambar to overflowing with hot water from the tub so that it squirts out the nipples. This helps flush the nipples out and softens the residue in the nipples and tubing. Next, pull the nipples out of the bucket. At this point you can clean the tubes one of two ways. You can remove the tube from the nipple, sometimes they are really stuck or you can clean them as one. If they have a lot of residue I suggest that you take them apart. Soak the tubes and nipples in the soap solution while you clean the bucket. Use a brush and part of the solution to clean the bucket and rinse well. Now you can start on the nipples, use the ¼ brush to gently clean the tubes. If you have left the nipples on the tubes make sure that you do not poke the brush out the end of the nipple, this will tear the opening! Rinse and soak in bleach water mix to disinfect. Now just reassemble the Lambar and you are ready to feed

Cleaning inflations and tubing

Mix soap solution in bucket and soak inflations and tubing, you will need to push tubing down in the solution to get air bubbles out. Use the inflation brush to scrub out the inflations and a cable brush to clean the tubing. Rinse and disinfect with bleach mixture.

Now this is where we get a little creative. You can purchase a bucket washer for cleaning the inflation assembly(I don't know why they call it a bucket washer, it washes inflations). This system works as a flushing process to clean the inflations but is a little pricey, around \$200. I devised one for my own use that cost \$25 and works great!

Purchase a GOOD cooler pump, don't skimp here, and a rectangle bucket. Make a wire hanger to hang the pump on the inside of the bucket so that the pump is about 2in. in the soap solution. Lay the inflation and tubing in the bucket, connect the hose to the pump, turn it on and walk away. I let mine run for about 15min while I am doing other chores. Now just rinse the assembly and hang to dry.

If your tubing is turning yellow, as they all do after time, don't replace it just take it outside and hang it in the sun and it will look new again.

Cleaning stainless Bucket

Mix soap solution and scrub with a brush, rinse and disinfect with bleach. That was easy, Milkstone is a different matter. I have not known Milkstone to attach to tubing but you can clearly see it on

Stainless Buckets. If the inside of the bucket has a cloudy appearance, That is Milkstone! Milkstone is a build up of Calcium that adheres to the metal of the bucket. I only know of 2 ways to get rid of Milkstone in a bucket. 1) Use a very strong Dairy Acid to dissolve it and 2) scrub it out. I used to use the acid method but have found scrubbing it out works better. For this I use a Green Scrubby Pad that can be found at a cleaning supply. The are used for commercial cleaning of Porcelain (toilets) and for other heavy deposits. These work great! The first time you will have to use some elbow grease to get rid of all the Milkstone but if you use the pad every time you clean the bucket all you have to do is wipe the inside with it and you are done.

Cleaning the bucket lid

Any time you clean the bucket lid make sure that you remove the gasket, this is where the bad stuff is. Wash it by hand or put it in the dishwasher. I prefer the dishwasher myself.

These are a few suggestions on how to keep your equipment clean.

HAPPY MILKING ☺

Charlie Wilson