

# CELLCHECK TIP OF THE MONTH



## Time for a change

**ASSUMING** you started the spring with a new set of liners, then it's definitely time to change them now if you haven't already done so. To help prevent mastitis, CellCheck recommends that liners are changed every 2,000 milkings, or every 6 months whichever comes first. For example, for the average Irish milk recording herd of 79 cows, if the full herd has been milking since March 1st in a 10 unit swing over parlour, the milking liners will have clocked up over 2,800 milkings by 31st August. These liners had completed 2,000 milkings by July 4th!

Cluster liners are designed to flex and squeeze the teat during each pulsation cycle. This massages teats and maintains blood supply. While liners are working they begin to lose tension, absorb fat and hold bacteria. After too many milkings this can reduce the speed and completeness of milking, resulting in a loss in milk yield. It also increases teat end damage and increase the spread of mastitis bacteria. Fatigued rubber can also hold bacteria and this can increase the total bacterial count (TBC) if dirt is being trapped.



To calculate how many days it takes to reach 2,000 milkings, see page 52 of the *CellCheck Farm Guidelines for Mastitis Control*. Alternatively, estimate how often you should change your liners, based on the number of rows you're milking:

No. of rows	Days between changes
6	167
7	143
8	125
9	111
10	100
11	91
12	83
13	77
14	71

So, if you're milking 8 rows of cows, you should be changing your liners every 125 days, which is approx every 4 months

If you're milking 11 rows of cows, you should be changing your liners every 91 days, which is approx every 3 months

For more details, see [www.cellcheck.ie](http://www.cellcheck.ie) or watch our short video online – “When Should I Change My Liners?”

