

## Check that milk is suitable to go in the bulk tank

- Dry cow treatment (DCT) withholding period
- Teat sealer
- Colostrum and transition milk

For milk quality reasons, all cows should have their colostrum and transition milk withheld from the bulk tank for at least eight milkings after calving.

For cows that have received an antibiotic dry cow treatment (DCT), a withholding period for milk after calving is specified for each product. This is to ensure that there is no antibiotic residue in milk supplied for sale. All DCT products are registered with a specified Minimum Dry Period as well as a Milk Withholding Time after treatment. If a cow calves in less than this time, check the datasheet of the product for the correct withholding periods or clarify with your veterinary practitioner. You can also check the IMB website [www.imb.ie](http://www.imb.ie) for up-to-date information on dry cow treatment products.

### Refer to Management Note F

Guide to withholding periods after use of dry cow treatment.



The Irish Medicines Board is responsible for the authorising of veterinary medicines. If in doubt, check their website [www.imb.ie](http://www.imb.ie) for up-to-date information on dry cow treatment products.

### Refer to Management Note E

Using teat sealers in your herd.

### 3.1 Ensure each cow has exceeded her DCT Minimum Dry Period before putting her milk in the bulk tank

### 3.2 Ensure that milk from the colostrum and transition phase (first 8 milkings) is not included in the bulk tank

It is not possible to accurately assess colostrum levels by visually checking milk. Withhold milk for at least the first eight milkings after calving, and ensure udders are completely milked out.

### 3.3 Minimise residual teat sealer

Internal teat sealers provide a non-antibiotic approach to protecting cows from environmental mastitis during the dry period and at calving. Milk from cows treated with teat sealers must still be omitted for the first 8 milkings to minimise the amount of residual product entering the milk tank, and also to comply with colostrum management requirements. In particular, if milk contaminated with teat sealer is used in cheese manufacture, this can lead to black spot blemishes in maturing cheese.

It is vitally important to ensure that all sealant is milked out.