

# The correct way to mix and store teat disinfectant

Teat disinfection after milking is one of the most effective cell count and mastitis control measures available. However, it only works if it is done correctly.

CellCheck recommends that premixed (ready to use (RTU)) teat disinfectants are used as they avoid any room for error with mixing and concentration of products being combined or any quality issues with water supply.

Teat disinfectant concentrate must be diluted to the correct concentration for use. After mixing, the active ingredients often lose their disinfectant ability with time. Disinfectant activity may be reduced if you include additives to improve skin condition (emollients), or if the dip is contaminated with milk and other organic material.

Correct mixing each day is best to get maximum performance.

## Each time you buy a new stock of teat disinfectant

- Read the label on the teat disinfectant container.
- Familiarise yourself with the mixing instructions and any necessary safety precautions.



## Calculate the approximate amount of diluted teat disinfectant needed for one day or, for large herds, one milking

- If applying the disinfectant with a dip cup, you will need at least 10 mL of solution for each cow in the milking. Therefore, you will need 1 L of disinfectant solution for each milking if you are milking 100 cows.
- If applying the disinfectant by spray, you will need at least 15 mL of solution for each cow in the milking to achieve complete coverage of the teats. Therefore, you will need 1.5 L of disinfectant solution for each milking if you are milking 100 cows.



## Select a clean container which is large enough to hold the volume of disinfectant solution you will need for one day or, for large herds, one milking

- This can be reused as your teat disinfectant measuring container in the future. Label this bottle 'POISON' to ensure no one uses it for any other purpose.
- A clear plastic container (such as a clean, empty drink bottle) is ideal so you can see how much of each ingredient you are adding to the mix.

## Calculate how much stock disinfectant solution, clean water and emollient (if required) you will need to make up a day's volume of disinfectant solution

- Read the label of the product you are using for the mixing ratio - an example is worked below

**Example:** Using iodine 10% in teat spray for a 100 cow herd

**Label instructions:** 'Mix one part iodine disinfectant to three parts water'

### Total solution required:

15 mL per cow x 100 cows x 2 milkings = 3000 mL

=> You will need 3 litres of solution each day.

### Disinfectant and clean water:

1 part iodine to 3 parts water (1 + 3 = 4)

3 litres divided by 4 = 0.75 L; 0.75 x 3 = 2.25 L

=> You will need 0.75 L iodine and 2.25 L water.

### If you want the solution to contain 10% glycerine:

10% of 3 L = 300 mL

Glycerine is taken from the water volume.

2.25 L minus 300 mL is 1.95 L

=> You will need 0.75 L iodine, 1.95 L water and 300 mL of glycerine.

**Accurately measure the volume for each ingredient and add consecutively to the plastic container**

**Clearly mark on the outside of the container (with a permanent marker pen) the fluid level and the name of each ingredient, before adding the next one**

This can be used as the mixing container for all future mixing.

**Each day as you make up the teat disinfectant required:**

- Use water of very high quality.
- Water from the hot water source in the parlour is recommended over other water sources including town water and rainwater.
- Cool and store the water in a clean container ready for use.
- Make up the disinfectant solution by adding the disinfectant concentrate, water and emollient according to the levels marked on the plastic container.
- Ensure that the correct dilution is made each time.
- Wash out the plastic mixing container after each use.
- Wash and clean all teat dip cups before each milking.
- All teat spray containers should be washed and cleaned each day.
- Tip out all teat disinfectant solution not used at the end of the day.