

Footbaths: Cleaning & Disinfection

Do footbaths have to be cleaned and disinfected between clients?

- **Yes.** Footbaths must be cleaned and disinfected between clients.
- Footbaths must also be cleaned and disinfected at the end of each day.

Does the footbath screen have to be removed, cleaned and disinfected?

- Yes. For **pipeless or non-recirculating footbaths**, the screen must be cleaned and disinfected between clients and at the end of the day.
- For **recirculating** or footbaths with **pipes**, the screen must be removed, cleaned and disinfected at the end of each day.

Disinfection can be done with a commercial disinfectant or a self-made bleach-water solution. Chlorine solutions must be made fresh daily.

Pipeless or non-recirculating Footbaths:

Between clients you must:

- Clean the tub with soap and water using a scrub brush.*
- Rinse the tub thoroughly with clean water.
- Disinfect the tub with a commercial disinfectant that has a Tuberculocidal (TB) claim on the label. Spray the tub thoroughly and follow the manufacturer's instructions.

OR

- Disinfect the tub with a bleach-water solution. The solution can be made by mixing 10 ml/2 teaspoons of household bleach with 500 ml /2 cups of water. Spray the tub thoroughly and let it soak for 10 minutes.

If the footbath has a screen, then the screen must be removed, cleaned and disinfected between clients and at the end of each day.

Recirculating or footbaths with pipes:

Between clients you must:

- Clean the tub with soap and water using a scrub brush.*
- Rinse the tub thoroughly with clean water.
- Disinfect the tub with a commercial disinfectant that has a TB claim on the label. Circulate the disinfectant through the pipes and follow the manufacturer's instructions.

OR

- Disinfect the tub with a bleach-water solution (this may be corrosive to your pipes). The solution can be made by mixing 500 ml/2 cups of household bleach (approximately the volume of a small drinking water bottle) with 20 litres/4 gallons of water. Circulate the solution through the pipes for at least 10 minutes.

At the end of each day, the screen must be removed, cleaned and disinfected.

Footbaths with single-use disposable liners:

You still need to clean and disinfect your footbath between clients.

Between clients you must:

- Clean the tub with soap and water using a scrub brush.*
- Rinse the tub thoroughly with clean water.
- Disinfect the tub with a commercial low level disinfectant. Spray the tub thoroughly and follow the manufacturer's instructions.

OR

- Disinfect the tub by using a bleach-water solution. The solution can be made by mixing 5 ml/1 teaspoon of household bleach with 2.5 litres/10 cups of water. Spray the tub with the solution and let it soak for 10 minutes.

*At the end of each day clean and soak the scrub brush in a low level disinfectant.

For guidance on low level disinfectant selection, refer to the Disinfection of Instruments & Equipment Fact Sheet.

Never mix chlorine bleach with ammonia products. The combination produces toxic chlorine gas.

What more can I do to protect my clients from infection?

Tell your clients to avoid waxing or shaving legs 24 hours before having a pedicure.

**For more information please contact the Infectious Disease Control Team at
519-663-5317 ext. 2330 or go to www.healthunit.com**

Information adapted from:

Toronto Public Health: BodySafe: Footbaths – Infection Prevention and Control

Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. (2009). *Infection prevention and control best practices for personal services settings*. Retrieved from http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/pubhealth/oph_standards/ophs/progstds/pdfs/pssp_2008.pdf

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