



What is it?

HoofDoctor (HD) is a concentrated footbath product to replace copper sulfate and/or formaldehyde. It contains no copper, lead or soaps.

What are the ingredients?

HD contains 3 components –

1. organic acids (formic and acetic acids) lowers the pH to handle the organic matter (manure) introduced into the footbath, and break down the bacteria cell wall for the tea tree oil to penetrate the cell.
2. tea tree oil – a natural oil with over 100 anti-microbial properties. In addition to animal health uses it is used in human health products, face creams, shampoos, small animal products and janitorial supplies
3. surfactants disperse the product in the footbath and assist in penetration of the hoof and foot tissues, while improving the integrity of the hoof (no soft or brittle feet).

Advantages –

1. More cow passes per bath – 600-800 cows with a well managed footbath (1% solution)
2. More environmentally friendly in lagoons and compost (less odor, more rapid breakdown)
3. No copper build-up in fields
4. Lowest cost per cow pass

How do you use it?

HD can be used in a footbath at a 0.5-1% solution (1/4-1/2 gallon per 50 gal. of water) or as a topical application at a 10% solution (1/2 gal. per 5 gal. of water). HD can be used everyday in the footbath and/or used in conjunction with copper sulfate or formaldehyde in a rotation (typically every other day). HD should be introduced gradually to assist the cows in adjusting to the change, especially if used to replace all other products.

The topical application can be used by the foot trimmer or in the hospital pen for treatment of hairy heel wart, ulcers, mud toe and foot rot. This is where you see the best results after 5-7 days of application.

Safety Precautions

Although relatively safe and much safer than formaldehyde, as when handling all chemical products it is recommended that you:

- Wear gloves and safety glasses.
- Do not mix with any other chemicals.
- If there is skin contact; flush the area with plenty of water.



Foot Baths – Key Points taken from Zinpro Corporation, October 17, 2003

- Locate the foot bath in an area regularly traveled by cattle. The exit lanes from milking parlors work well.
- Foot baths should be 8-10 ft. and approximately 3 ft wide with a minimum depth of 6 in.
- Locate foot baths on a level surface.
- If practical, locate a foot bath containing water (pre-bath) preceding the treatment foot bath. This will help to clean cows feet prior to entering the treatment foot bath.
- Foot bath solutions should be 4-6 in. deep to ensure adequate coverage of the foot area.
- Change foot bath solutions according to manufacturer’s recommendations. This will vary due to reasons such as cow cleanliness, use of a pre-bath, type and concentration of medication used, and weather conditions.
- Thoroughly drain foot bath and rinse with water before mixing a new batch of solution.
- Alternate times for replenishing foot baths with fresh solution so each group of cows has access to fresh solution.
- Cows should enter a clean dry area after passing through the foot bath.
- Foot baths are most effective for treating diseases of the inter-digital skin such as inter-digital dermatitis and foot rot.
- It is recommended that foot baths be used at least 3 to 4 days per week.
- In arid regions, evaporation will concentrate active ingredients.
- Manure deactivates the chemicals used in a foot bath; therefore, foot baths must be managed properly to achieve maximum effectiveness.
- A poorly managed foot bath can actually become a vector for certain infectious diseases of the foot.













Footbath frequency

Footbath use depends on cow cleanliness (see Figure 1). Nigel Cook, with the University of Wisconsin's School of Veterinary Medicine, recommends that if more than 75% of the cattle in a herd score a 3 or 4 (with 4 being extremely dirty and 1 being clean) for overall hygiene, then they should use a footbath every day of the week. See Table 3 for additional footbath use frequency.

An alternative to using a footbath is spraying cattle's hooves. Advantages to this claw lesion prevention strategy are reduced copper content in animal waste and reduced copper sulfate use. However, spraying is more labor intensive than using footbaths. Plus, debris must be removed from feet to facilitate contact of treatment solution with skin. Other disadvantages include inconsistent application of treatment solution to interdigital space on all four legs, and finding a location conducive to spraying cattle – especially heifers.

% of cows with hygiene scores of 3 or 4	Footbath frequency
<25%	< 2 days/week
25%-30%	2 days/week
51%-75%	5 days/week
>75%	7 days/week

Figure 1 **HYGIENE SCORING CARD**

SCORE	LEGS	LEISERS	FLANK & UPPER LEG
1			
2			
3			
4			

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