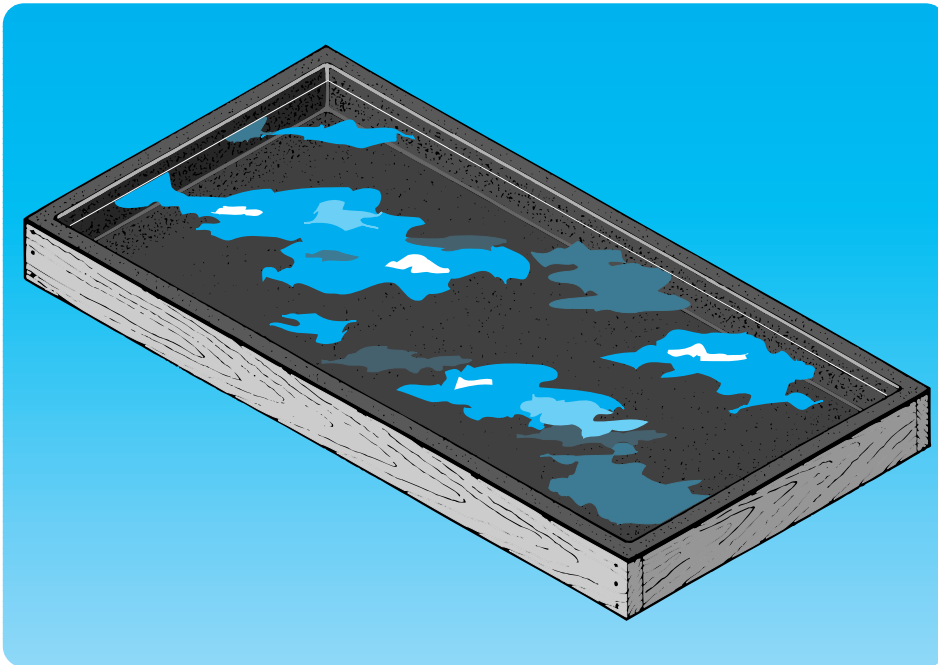


# PolyDome Footbath



## Tips on How to Use Your Footbath

Footbathing after milking is preferred, since chemicals tracked inside will corrode metals. Locate footbath by exit door of stall barn, or in exit lane of milking parlor, so cows walk through it twice a day. Cows should leave footbath onto a dry firm surface. A footbath will have little benefit if your cows walk from it into 5" of muck! However, walking cows over a thin bed of lime after the footbath is very beneficial. The lime acts as a backup to the footbath in keeping the skin over the heel areas hard and dry, and provides good footing.

Fill the footbath with a 2-1/2% to 5% copper sulfate solution, using the formula on the Dilution Chart.

Do not use concentrations greater than 5%, as they can harm skin on a cow's feet or may splash up on a cow's teats. Once existing hoof-rot and heel erosion problems have been reduced, cutting solution per-

centage to 3% or 2-1/2% should be sufficient. If the healthy skin on a cow's feet suddenly becomes irritated, discontinue the footbath for two weeks. If the irritation persists, consult your vet. The footbath solution should be 3-1/2" to 6" deep. It should be emptied and cleaned thoroughly once a week, more often if it becomes diluted with waste (the strength of the solution will decrease during use, but copper sulfate is not quickly inactivated by manure. The appearance of the solution does not necessarily reflect its effectiveness). Most vets claim that the emptied solution should not cause contamination problems if it is added to barn manure waste.

Regular use of a footbath as a preventative treatment is very important. Use of a footbath only after the outbreak of clinical disease is not generally effective. Some vets recommend using a footbath for 4 days, then dumping it and leaving it empty for 3 days, before repeating the cycle. However, most vets recommend using a footbath with disinfectant solution two times a day for at least two days per week. During the remainder of each week, they recommend filling the footbath daily with clean water so cows can walk through at each milking. They urge this is worth doing, as it helps prevent buildup of dirt and manure in the space between cleats, which tends to harbor harmful bacteria. In freezing temperature, a dry mixture of 25 parts slaked lime to 1 part copper sulfate may be beneficial. However, it's not as effective as a liquid solution in penetrating between toes and cracks, where bacterial infection may start. A footbath alone will not solve lameness problems. Rations need to be balanced, especially to assure adequate fiber. Hooves need to be properly trimmed at regular intervals. Improper trimming puts uneven stresses on the hoof. Cow's feet should be kept as dry as possible.

## Dilution Chart

Solution Percentage	Amount of Copper Sulfate	Amount of Water
2-1/2%	1.0 lb.	5 gallons
3%	1.2 lb.	5 gallons
3-1/2%	1.4 lb.	5 gallons
4%	1.6 lb.	5 gallons
4-1/2%	1.8 lb.	5 gallons
5%	2.0 lb.	5 gallons

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