

NATURAL ENGLAND

Boot Disinfection Procedures when using Antec Virkon S (www.antecint.com)

Six stages have been identified in the following instructions for using Virkon safely.

1. Storing Virkon

The disinfectant should be stored securely in a cool, dry place out of direct sunlight. Sachets should always be purchased to avoid having to decant the substance from a bulk supply. The Virkon must not be accessible to non NE employees; especially to children. The main risk comes when the substance is in its powder form compared to the dilute solution.

2. Transport to and from site

The transport of Virkon and the associated items (e.g. Wellington boots and brushes) should be in dedicated containers to prevent contamination of vehicles and personal belongings. The Virkon sachets, themselves, should be contained within a separate crush-proof (polythene) box and you should have a supply to last for several days' visits.

3. Use to disinfect boots

On arrival at each farm the first and preferred approach should be to ask to use the farmer's equipment but failing this a suitable location to disinfect should be sought away from children and farm animals. It is helpful if this is also where you can safely dispose of the used disinfectant. Wearing nitrile or rubber gloves and eye protection (e.g. goggles) mix the appropriate quantities of Virkon and water in a suitable container. Use 1 sachet (50 g) of Virkon to 5 litres of water for AI, FMD and SVD precautions. Start a small tear at the top of the sachet just above the water in the container; but only open the sachet releasing the powder when it is immersed in the water. Starting with "clean boots" scrub the boots paying particular attention to the soles and heels. Brush the boot away from you to avoid splashing the disinfectant onto unprotected clothing or skin and eyes. Eye protection must be worn.

4. Storage during visit

During the visit the container should not be left exposed or unattended. Staff should seek to cover the container securely, or place it in the boot of their car. If the Virkon solution can not be made safe it should be disposed of. At the end of the visit the boots must again be disinfected. (Remember - The disinfection process of your boots etc must be repeated on arrival at the next farm).

5. Disposal on site

In agreement with the farmer you should pour away the used disinfectant on site on land with a low conservation value. You must not pour the Virkon into a watercourse or drain leading to one and where the soil is used as a soak away. Do not mix this solution with other disinfectants. The farmer will usually be able to direct you to a water supply to rinse your boots and other equipment.

6. Contaminated equipment

Following the cleaning of your boots, and the disinfection other equipment, the contaminated items should be placed in your car in a sealable container to catch any drips/moisture. As an extra precaution you may wish to have an extra layer of polythene sheet on the floor of the boot of the car to catch any further drips or spills.

Emergency Instructions:

- Inhalation:** Remove to fresh air. Seek medical advice if symptoms persist.
Skin contact: Drench skin with plenty of water. Remove contaminated clothing.
Eye contact: Rinse with water or buffered eyewash for at least 15 minutes.
Ingestion: Do not induce vomiting. Drink plenty of water (or milk)
Obtain immediate medical attention for eye contact and ingestion.

Defra Biosecurity information: www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/control/biosecurity/index.htm